

# Covering Letter

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# Families of words

In order to gauge the breadth of a student's vocabulary, tests often have questions based on words from many different fields. After going through this part of "VA Atlas", you will be ready for such words. This section contains an eclectic mix of words from various subject areas.

The word families presented here include:

- Foreign words in English ◀
- Topicwise words ◀
- Confusing words ◀
- Idioms and phrases ◀
- Phrasal verbs ◀
- Roots ◀
- Affixes ◀

It may be tempting to presume that such words are too specialised and will not figure in your tests. Our experience tells us otherwise and you are advised to spend adequate time on each section. A clear understanding of such words aids reading comprehension and general English usage also.

# Foreign words in English

English has assimilated a large number of words from different languages. Although these are essentially foreign, they are now used freely as part of English language.

## LATIN WORDS

<b>A FORTIORI</b> – For a more compelling reason; all the more	<b>INFRA DIGNITATEM</b> – Beneath one's dignity; often colloquially shortened as <b>INFRA DIG</b>
<b>A POSTERIORI</b> – Reasoning based on observed facts	<b>INTER ALIA</b> – Among other things
<b>A PRIORI</b> – Reasoning based on general principles, not facts; self-evident	<b>IPSO FACTO</b> – By the fact itself
<b>AB INITIO</b> – from the beginning	<b>LINGUA FRANCA</b> – Language of the masses; common language
<b>AB OVO</b> – from the very beginning	<b>MAGNUM OPUS</b> – A great work; masterpiece; crowning achievement
<b>AD HOC</b> – for a particular purpose	<b>MEA CULPA</b> – Acknowledgment of one's own fault or guilt
<b>AD HOC</b> – For a special reason or purpose	<b>MODUS OPERANDI</b> – Method of procedure; distinct pattern of operation
<b>AD HOMINEM</b> – Personal criticism	<b>MODUS VIVENDI</b> – Way of life; feasible arrangement
<b>AD INFINITUM</b> – without limit, for ever	<b>NIL DESPERANDUM</b> – never give up hope
<b>AD INTERIM</b> – meanwhile	<b>NON SEQUITUR</b> – Conclusion that does not follow logically; response unrelated to circumstances; inappropriate remark, an illogical conclusion
<b>AD INFINITUM</b> – to an excessive or disgusting degree	<b>PARI PASSU</b> – Side by side; at equal rate or pace
<b>AD LIBITUM</b> – Freely	<b>PERSONA GRATA</b> – An acceptable person
<b>AD NAUSEAM</b> – To an extent that is sickening or disgusting	<b>PERSONA NON GRATA</b> – An unacceptable person
<b>ALMA MATER</b> – Fostering mother; the school, college or university one attended	<b>PRIMA FACIE</b> – At first sight; on first appearance
<b>ALTER EGO</b> – The other self, a very close friend, trusted friend	<b>POST FACTUM</b> – After the fact
<b>ANNUS MIRABILIS</b> – A wonderful year; an year characterised by great happenings, a remarkable or auspicious year	<b>PRO RATA</b> – In proportion
<b>BONA FIDE</b> – In good faith; without fraud; honestly	<b>POST PARTUM</b> – after childbirth
<b>CAVEAT</b> – Warning; formal notice filed with court to suspend proceedings pending hearing	<b>QUID PRO QUO</b> – Something for something, something given in fair exchange, barter
<b>CAVEAT EMPTOR</b> – Let the buyer beware; a commercial principle that without a warranty the buyer takes the risk, the buyer alone is responsible for the consequences	<b>RARA AVIS</b> – a rare kind of person or thing
<b>CURRICULUM</b> – Outline, layout or course of action; a set of courses	<b>REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM</b> – A reduction to the absurd
<b>CURRICULUM VITAE</b> – Summary of academic and work history prepared typically to apply for a position	<b>SANCTUM SANCTORUM</b> – Place of inviolable privacy or great sanctity
<b>DE FACTO</b> – Existing; in reality or fact	<b>SINE DIE</b> – Without a date set (for the next meeting), adjourned indefinitely (esp. parliament)
<b>DEUS EX MACHINA</b> – A person or thing that appears unexpectedly to solve a difficult problem	<b>SINE QUA NON</b> – Without which not; something indispensable, an indispensable requirement
<b>DRAMATIS PERSONAE</b> – Actors in a drama; participants in an event	<b>STATUS QUO</b> – Existing state of affairs
<b>EX CATHEDRA</b> – By the authority of one's position	<b>SUB ROSA</b> – Secretly; in confidence
<b>EX GRATIA</b> – Out of goodwill, not legally binding, as a favor rather than from obligation	<b>SUI GENERIS</b> – Unique; in a class of its own
<b>EX NIHILO</b> – out of nothing	<b>TERRA INCOGNITA</b> – Unknown territory; unexplored field of knowledge
<b>EX OFFICIO</b> – By virtue of one's office	<b>ULTRA VIRES</b> – Beyond the power possessed; beyond the scope
<b>IN TOTO</b> – Entirely; in full	<b>VOX POPULI</b> – Voice of the people; popular sentiment, public opinion

## FRENCH WORDS

**A LA CARTE** – According to a menu that prices each item separately, ordered separately from the menu

**A LA MODE** – According to the fashion; topped with ice cream

**AMOUR** – A usually illicit love affair

**AMOUR PROPRE** – self-respect

**AU COURANT** – well-informed

**AU FAIT** – Familiar with latest developments or facts

**AU FOND** – At bottom; fundamentally, basically, essentially

**AU NATUREL** – raw, cooked in the simplest way

**AVANT-GARDE** – Radically new or original; a creative group active in innovation and application of new concepts and techniques, innovators, especially in art or literature

**BEAUX-ARTS** – The fine arts

**BEAU GESTE** – a noble gesture

**BEAU IDEAL** – the highest type of excellence or beauty, paragon

**BETE NOIRE** – one's particular aversion, a bugbear, nemesis

**BELLES-LETTRES** – Literary work valued for aesthetic content rather than information

**BILLET-DOUX** – A love letter

**BIJOU** – jewel, trinket

**BONA FIDE** – genuine, sincere

**BON MOT** – A clever saying; witticism, witty saying

**BON VIVANT** – A person who enjoys good food and has luxurious social tastes, someone indulging in good living

**BON VOYAGE** – Expression of goodwill at the start of a new journey or venture

**CARTE BLANCHE** – Complete freedom or authority to act

**CAFÉ AU LAIT** – white coffee i.e. coffee with cream

**CAFÉ NOIR** – black coffee

**CAUSE CELEBRE** – An incident or event that attracts great public attention; a notorious person, thing, incident or episode

**CHERCHEZ LA FEMME** – there is a woman at the bottom of it

**COUP** – A brilliant and notable success; a sudden, illegal change of government by force

**COUP DE GRACE** – a finishing stroke, to kill a wounded creature

**COUP D'ETAT** – a violent seizure of power

**COUP DE GRACE** – The mortal or finishing stroke delivered to someone mortally wounded; a decisive finishing blow, act or event

**COUP DE MAIN** – A sudden action undertaken to surprise an enemy

**COUP D'ÉTAT** – A sudden overthrowing of government and seizure of power by others

**CRIME PASSIONNEL** – A crime provoked by passion, usually sexual jealousy

**DEJA VU** – The feeling of having already experienced something actually being experienced first time

**DEMODE** – Outmoded; no longer in fashion, out of fashion

**DEMOISELLE** – A young unmarried woman

**DE RIGUEUR** – Required by the current fashion or social custom; socially obligatory

**EN BLOC** – as a group, wholesale

**ENFANT TERRIBLE** – unruly person

**EN MASSE** – all together

**ENTENTE CORDIALE** – a friendly understanding between states

**ENTRE NOUS** – between you and me

**EMINENCE GRISE** – A person who exercises his power or influence without holding an official position

**ENFANT TERRIBLE** – A person whose shocking remarks or outrageous behaviour causes embarrassment to others

**ESPRIT DE CORPS** – A spirit of devotion among members of a group for one another and the group as a whole, devotion to one's group

**FAIT ACCOMPLI** – An accomplished and presumably irreversible fact, something that has been done and is beyond alteration

**FAUX PAS** – A disastrous mistake; a socially awkward or tactless blunder; a breach of etiquette, indiscretion

**GARÇON** – a waiter in a French restaurant

**HAUTE COUTURE** – High-class dressmaking; trendsetting fashions, high fashion

**HAUTE CUISINE** – Artful and elaborate cuisine

**HORS DE COMBAT** – out of the action, disabled

**IDEE FIXE** – A fixed idea; an obsession

**JOIE DE VIVRE** – The energy and love of life; keen enjoyment of living

**JE NE SAIS QUOI** – an undefinable something, some emotion that can't be defined

**LAISSEZ-FAIRE** – The doctrine of abstaining from direction of or interference with individual freedom of choice and action

**MAL DE MER** – seasickness

**MOT** – a witty saying

**MOT JUSTE** – The most appropriate word or expression

**NOBLESSE** – Noble birth or condition; the aristocracy

**NOBLESSE OBLIGE** – Benevolent behaviour considered to be responsibility of persons of high birth or rank

**NOM DE PLUME** – an assumed name under which someone writes

**NOUVEAU RICHE** – A derogatory term meaning one who has lately become ostentatiously rich

**PAR EXCELLENCE** – To the highest degree; the best of a kind

**PASSE** – Outdated

**PAR AVION** – by airmail

**PAS DE DEUX** – a dance for two people

**PAS SEUL** – a solo dance

**RAISON D'ETRE** – the purpose that justifies a things existence, The reason or justification for existence

**RISQUE** – Suggestive or bordering on indecency or impropriety

**SANG-FROID** – composure in agitating circumstances

**SOIGNÉ** – well-groomed

**TANT PIS** – so much the worse

**TETE-A-TETE** – An private conversation between two people, an intimate, one-on-one conversation

**TOUR DE FORCE** – A feat of strength or virtuosity; masterly or brilliant feat, a feat of strength or skill

**TROUVAILLE** – a lucky find, windfall

**VIEUX JEU** – old fashioned, hackneyed

**VIS-A-VIS** – In relation to, compared with; face-to-face with

**VOLTE-FACE** – A sudden policy reversal

## GERMAN WORDS

**ANGST** – Feeling of anxiety, apprehension or insecurity  
**BLITZ** – An intense campaign or effort  
**BLITZKRIEG** – A swift, sudden military offensive, usually by combined air and land forces  
**DACHSHUND** – A small dog of a breed developed in Germany  
**GESUNDHEIT** – Used to wish good health to a person who has just sneezed, meaning "Bless you !"  
**HAUSFRAU** – A housewife  
**HINTERLAND** – The land lying inland from a coast; region away from urban areas  
**KAISER** – An emperor  
**KINDERGARTEN** – A school or class for children between the age of four and six  
**KITSCH** – Appealing to popular or lowbrow taste, usually of poor quality  
**LEBENSRAUM** – Space needed for life, growth or activity  
**LOAFER** – One who does no work; low leather step-in shoe  
**LUFTWAFFE** – The German air force  
**MENSCH** – a person of integrity and honor  
**PUTSCH** – Sudden and decisive change of government illegally or by force  
**REALPOLITIK** – Politics based on practical rather than moral or ideological considerations  
**REICH** – The German state or empire  
**RUCKSACK** – A bag carried by a strap around the back or shoulder  
**SCHMALTZ** – Excessive sentimentality, especially in music or art  
**SWINDLE** – To take or obtain money or property by deceit or fraud  
**UBERMENSCH** – a superman  
**UNTERMENSCH** – a racially inferior person (as per the Nazi terms)  
**WALTZ** – A smooth flowing ballroom dance  
**WELTANSCHAUUNG** – A comprehensive view of the world and human life  
**WELTSCHMERZ** – Sadness on thinking about the evils of the world  
**ZEITGEIST** – The spirit of the times; the taste characteristic of a generation

## ITALIAN WORDS

**ALFRESCO** – In the open air  
**ARCADE** – A series of arches supported by columns, piers or pillars; common passageway with shops or stalls  
**ARRIVEDERCI** – A farewell remark; goodbye for now  
**BANDIT** – Crook, criminal, brigand  
**CAMEO** – A technique of engraving in relief on gem, stone; a small but noticeable role in a play or a film  
**CANTO** – Any of the principal divisions of a long poem  
**CAPRICE** – Sudden impulsive notion or action; sudden, unpredictable change

**CARESS** – Gentle affectionate touching or stroking  
**CARICATURE** – Exaggerated representation for comic effect  
**CARNIVAL** – Season or festival or merrymaking  
**CASINO** – A place for gambling  
**CHE SARA, SARA** – Whatever will be, will be  
**CICERONE** – A guide who conducts and informs sightseers  
**COGNOSCENTE** – A person of expert knowledge; connoisseur  
**DILETTANTE** – Amateur, nonprofessional, beginner; a dabbler in fine arts  
**DOLCE VITA** – A life of comfort or luxury and lazy self-indulgence, a life of pleasure and luxury  
**FIASCO** – Failure, disaster  
**MACARONI** – A pasta in the form of slender tubes  
**NEPOTISM** – Favouritism based on kinship  
**PARAPET** – A low protective wall or railing along the edge of a roof  
**PIAZZA** – Public square in Italy  
**PRIMA DONNA** – The leading female singer in an opera; vain and temperamental person  
**REGATTA** – A series of boat races  
**SENTINEL** – Guard, picket, sentry  
**SEQUIN** – A small shiny ornamental disc of metal or plastic  
**SONATA** – A musical composition in three or four parts, usually for the piano  
**SONNET** – A 14-line poem with a particular pattern of rhyme  
**SOTTO VOCE** – Very softly so as not to be heard; in an undertone, mutter  
**SPAGHETTI** – A pasta in the form of long strings  
**STILETTO** – A small dagger with tapering blade; woman's shoe with narrow high heel  
**STUCCO** – A plaster for ceilings and walls, which can be formed into decorative patterns  
**TARANTULA** – A large, hairy tropical spider

## SPANISH WORDS

**AFICIONADO** – An enthusiastic admirer or follower of something, especially a sport  
**ALCAZAR** – A Spanish palace or fortress  
**ARMADA** – A large fleet of warships  
**ARMADILLO** – An omnivorous burrowing mammal with body and head covered by an armour of small, bony plates  
**BONANZA** – Fortune, blessing, gain; something very valuable, profitable or rewarding  
**BRAVADO** – False bravery; foolhardy  
**CABALLERO** – A gentleman, a cavalier, a knight  
**CANTINA** – A bar or a wine shop  
**CAUDILLO** – A Spanish or Latin American military dictator  
**COCHINEAL** – A South American insect; a bright red dye made from the dried bodies of these insects  
**CORTES** – Two houses constituting the national legislative body of Spain or Portugal  
**DESPERADO** – Someone who does risky, dangerous and often criminal things

**EL DORADO** – A place of fabulous wealth or opportunity

**EMBARGO** – Ban, prohibition; order to stop something, usually trading or giving of information; to officially stop trading with another country

**FIESTA** – A holiday; a public celebration with entertainments and activities

**FLOTILLA** – A fleet of small ships

**GRANDEE** – A gentleman of the highest rank

**LASSO** – A long rope with a running noose at one end used to catch cattle, horses etc.

**MANANA** – Sometime in the future; later

**MARIJUANA** – Commonly used illicit drug; the source plant of this drug

**MERINO** – A type of sheep known for its fine wool

**OMERTA** – code of silence, as practiced by the Mafia

**PECCADILLO** – A small sin or fault

**PLAZA** – A public square

**QUE SERA, SERA** – Whatever will be, will be

**RANCH** – Spread, farm

**RODEO** – An enclosure for cattle; exhibition of cowboy skill

**SIESTA** – Afternoon sleep

**STAMPEDE** – Sudden uncontrolled movement of animals or people, usually in the same direction, caused by panic

## JAPANESE WORDS

**AIKIDO** – A Japanese martial art

**BONSAI** – The art of growing dwarfed trees; dwarfed ornamental tree or shrub

**GEISHA** – A Japanese woman trained to entertain men with conversation, singing and dancing

**HAIKU** – A short Japanese poem with 17 syllables

**HARA-KIRI** – Ritual suicide by cutting open the stomach with a sword

**IKEBANA** – The art of formal flower arrangements

**JUJITSU** – A method of unarmed self-defence

**KAMIKAZE** – A suicide pilot or plane of the Second World War

**KENDO** – Fencing with bamboo swords

**KIMONO** – A traditional Japanese dress

**MIKADO** – A Japanese emperor

**SAMURAI** – A warrior belonging to the military aristocracy of feudal Japan

**SAYONARA** – Goodbye

**SHINTO** – A Japanese religion

**SHOGUN** – Military rulers of Japan under the Japanese emperor

**SOGO SHOSHA** – A large diverse Japanese company

**SUMO** – An elaborate ritualised form of wrestling

**ZAIBATSU** – Large Japanese industrial combine usually controlled by a single family or a few families

## LATIN ADVERBS AND PREPOSITIONS

*This list contains some Latin adverbs (with some prepositions and conjunctions hiding away too) that have found their way into English unchanged in form or meaning. Though some of them are extraordinarily obscure, others are regularly found in academic papers, though often abbreviated (ibidem = ibid.; videlicet = viz.).*

**ALTERNATIM** – alternately

**ANA** – in equal quantities

**BIS** – twice; in two places

**CIRCA** – About; around

**ERGO** – therefore; hence

**GRATIS** – without charge; for free

**IBIDEM** – in the same place

**IDEM** – the same word as mentioned before

**INFRA** – Below; later in a text

**INTERIM** – meanwhile

**ITEM** – likewise; also

**JURE** – by law

**PER** – through; according to; by means or agency of

**PRIMO** – in the first place

**PRO** – in favour of; for

**PROXIMO** – of next month

**QUA** – in the capacity of

**QUASI** – as if; seemingly; in a manner

**SEMPER** – always

**SIC** – thus

**SINE** – without

**SOLUS** – alone

**STATIM** – immediately; at once

**SUPRA** – Above; earlier in a text

**TEMPORE** – in the time of

**UBIQUE** – everywhere

**ULTIMO** – of last month

**VARIORUM** – including the notes of earlier scholars or editors

**VERBATIM** – word for word

**VERSUS** – against; in contrast to

**VICE** – in place of; rather than

**VIDELICET** – to wit; namely (shortened as **viz.**)

**VULGO** – commonly; popularly

## WORDS FROM ANCIENT LEGENDS

**ANTAEAN** – having superhuman strength; **ANTAEUS** was a giant athlete overcome by Hercules

**ARGONAUTS** – engaged in dangerous but rewarding adventure; in Greek mythology, the Argonauts were a band of heroes who accompanied Jason to Colchis in his quest for the Golden Fleece

**ARGUS-EYED** – having very keen vision; careful, watchful; in Greek mythology, Argus was a giant with a 100 eyes

**ASTRONAUT** – trained for travelling in spacecraft (one from Russia is called a cosmonaut); the Greek expression means star sailor

**ATLAS** – from Atlas who was made to uphold the pillars of heaven as punishment for leading the Titans in the war against the Olympian gods; a collection of maps in a volume -- the first by Flemish geographer Gerhardus Mercator had a picture of Atlas holding up the world on the front

**BACCHANALIAN** – marked by excessive drinking and frenzy; bacchanalia is an ancient Greek festival in celebration of Bacchus, the god of wine

**CALLIOPE** – a keyboard musical instrument consisting of a series of whistles sounded by steam or compressed air; Calliope is the Greek Muse of epic poetry

**CHIMERICAL** – from Greek chimaira, a fabulous monster with a lion's head, goat's body and serpent's tail, the name means wild fantasy; pertaining to a hope or dream unlikely to ever come true; wildly fanciful imagination

**CORNUCOPIA** – a large amount or great supply of something; from the Latin "horn of plenty"

**CYCLOPEAN** – Huge, massive; Cyclops are a race of giants in Greek mythology with a single eye in the middle of the forehead

**EROTIC** – sexually arousing; Eros is the Greek god of love

**GORDIAN KNOT** – from King Gordius of Phrygia who tied a complicated knot which no one could make loose, until Alexander the Great cut it with his sword; a very tough problem; intricate

**GORGON** – a woman whose appearance and behaviour causes fear; one of three sisters in ancient Greek stories who had snakes on their heads instead of hair, and who turned anyone who looked at them into stone

**HARPY** – a cruel, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot; in Greek mythology, a creature with the head of a woman and the body of a bird

**HECTOR** – from the provocative Trojan hero Hector, in Greek mythology; to talk and behave in a loud and unpleasantly forceful way, to get someone to act or think as you want; be bossy

**HERCULEAN** – from Roman mythological hero, Hercules, noted for his courage and great strength; with superhuman strength or power; task of extreme difficulty

**JANUS-FACED** – Two-faced, having two contrasting aspects; Janus is the Roman god of doorways and passages

**JOVIAL** – Merry, joyous, happy; from the Latin Jovius, meaning Jupiter, the Roman god of the sky

**MENTOR** – a teacher or a wise counsellor; coach; in Greek mythology, the friend whom Odysseus left in charge of the household while he was at Troy and who was the teacher and protector of Telemachus, son of Odysseus

**MERCURIAL** – liable to sudden unpredictable change; lively and quick; in Roman mythology, the god of commerce and rhetoric, who also acted as a messenger between humans and gods; those born under the planet Mercury are supposed to be sprightly, volatile and quick

**NARCISSISM** – self-love and admiration; in Greek mythology, Narcissus was a beautiful young man who fell in love with his own reflection

**NEMESIS** – something that causes misery or death; the goddess of divine retribution and vengeance in Greek mythology

**ODYSSEY** – a long, exciting and eventful journey; a Greek epic poem describing the 10-year journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy

**OLYMPIAN** – majestic, awe-inspiring; far beyond the usual; Olympus is a mountain in Thessaly that in Greek mythology is the abode of the gods

**PAEAN** – a song or work of praise; Paeon was the Greek physician of the gods; a hymn of praise, especially one sung in ancient Greece to invoke or thank a deity

**PALLADIUM** – a safeguard; a statue of Pallas whose preservation was believed to ensure the safety of Troy

**PHOENIX** – a symbol of immortality, rebirth; an imaginary bird which set fire to itself every 500 years and was born again, rising from its ashes

**PROCRUSTEAN** – from Procrustes, a robber in Greek mythology, who abducted strangers and forced them to fit perfectly into a bed by either cutting off or stretching their limbs; trying to establish conformity by using any means, including violence; ruthless disregard of individual differences and special circumstances

**PROTEAN** – easily and continually changing; Proteus was a Greek sea god who could change his form

**SATURNINE** – bitter, scornful; heavy, dull, gloomy, serious, morose; once these qualities were attributed to being born under the influence of the planet Saturn, considered the coldest and the slowest

**STENTORIAN** – using a very loud voice; Stentor was a legendary Greek herald in the Trojan War, whose voice was as loud as that of 50 men

**STYGIAN** – gloomy, dark, infernal; relating to the Styx, the river in Greek mythology that the souls of the dead were ferried across into Hades



## WORDS DERIVED FROM NAMES OF PEOPLE AND PLACES

**AMERICA** – from the navigator Amerigo Vaspucci who made two trips to the New World and claimed to have discovered it; the two continents of North America and South America

**AMPERE** – from the French physicist Andre Ampere; unit of electric current one volt can send through one ohm

**BOWDLERIZE** – from Thomas Bowdler, English editor who published a cleaned-up Shakespeare, appropriate to be read aloud in a family; to make a book readable by deleting offensive portions

**BOYCOTT** – from Captain Charles Boycott of Ireland, the estate agent of an absentee landlord who refused to lower rents, evicted tenants and was ostracised by the community; ostracise; refusal to trade or deal with a person, an organisation or a country

**BRaille** – from Louis Braille, French musician and teacher, blind from the age of three, inventor of system of writing and printing for the sightless; a system of writing in which patterns of raised dots represent letters and numerals

**CHAUVINISM** – from Nicholas Chauvin, soldier of Napoleon's Grand Armee, notoriously attached to the Empire long after it ceased to be; exaggerated loyalty or patriotism; belief in superiority of men over women

**COLOGNE** – from the German city of Cologne; the French name "eau de Cologne" means water from the cologne; a lightly-scented liquid

**DERRICK** – from the surname of a hangman in London; a simple crane; a structure that facilitates lowering and raising of drill tubes over an oil well

**FAHRENHEIT** – from the German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit, inventor of the mercury thermometer; a nonmetric temperature scale

**FRANKENSTEIN** – from the monster created from parts of corpses by Baron Frankenstein in the novel by Mary Shelley; something that destroys or harms its creator

**GALVANISE** – from the Italian scientist Luigi Galvani who discovered the production of electricity by chemical action; to stimulate by administering a shock; to stir into action; to coat with zinc

**GARGANTUAN** – from the large-mouthed giant in the novels written by François Rabelais; anything on a large scale; massive

**GUY** – from Guy Fawkes, leader of the Gunpowder Plot to blow up British king and Parliament; an informal term for a youth or man; a rope or cable used to support something

**HOBSON'S CHOICE** – from Thomas Hobson who rented out horses and would let his customers take only the horse nearest the door; no real choice

**JINGOISM** – from the refrain of a music hall song supporting aggressive British policy toward Russia at a time of international tension ("**WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, BUT BY JINGO! IF WE DO, WE'VE GOT THE SHIPS, WE'VE GOT THE MEN, WE'VE GOT THE MONEY TOO.**") ; extreme, aggressive patriotism

**LILLIPUTIAN** – from Lilliput, the island inhabited by six-inch tall people, from the novel **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS** written by Jonathan Swift; very small, miniature, diminutive

**LOTHARIO** – from Lothario, the principal male character of Nicholas Rowe's tragedy **THE FAIR PENITENT**; a flirt; seducer of women

**MACADAM** – from John McAdam, Scottish civil engineer, inventor of road surfacing method; paved road surface having compressed layers of broken rocks held together with tar

**MACHIAVELLIAN** – from Niccolo Machiavelli, Florentine statesman and author, who advised rulers to place advantage above morality; cunning and unscrupulous

**MALAPROPISM** – from Mrs. Malaprop, character in Richard Sheridan's play **THE RIVALS**, noted for her ridiculous misuse of large words; unintentional misuse of a similar sounding word with amusing results, like saying "we have comprehended the thief" instead "we have apprehended the thief"

**MARTINET** – from the name of Col. Jean Martinet a drillmaster of the French army during the reign of Louis XIV; a person very strict about discipline; someone who demands exact conformity to rules and forms

**MASOCHISM** – from the German word **MASOCHISMUS**, coined by neurologist Richard von Krafft-Ebing from the name of the Austrian novelist Leopold von Sacher-Masoch; obtaining pleasure from receiving physical or psychological punishment

**MAVERICK** – from Samuel Maverick, Texas cattle owner who was negligent in branding his calves; independent thinker; unbranded animal

**NEMESIS** – from Nemesis, the Greek goddess of vengeance; unbeatable opponent; source of harm; avenger; deserved punishment

**NICOTINE** – from Jean Nicot, French ambassador to Portugal, who sent tobacco seeds and powdered leaves back to France; poisonous alkaloid found in tobacco

**OHM** – from German physicist Georg Ohm, who determined the law of the flow of electricity; unit of electrical resistance

**QUIXOTIC** – from Don Quixote, hero of a novel by Miguel de Cervantes, who pursued hopeless causes; unrealistic visionary; impractical and impulsive; excessively romantic

**ROBOT** – from Czech "robotnik" meaning slave, "robota" meaning forced labour and "robotiti" meaning to work, drudge; word popularised by a machine or a totally mechanised human; programmable machine for performing tasks

**RODOMONTADE** – from King Rodomonte, the boastful king of Italian long poems; vain and empty boasting; pretentious, self-important

**SOLECISM** – from the people of Greek province Soloi whose dialect was considered barbarous; blunder in speech or writing; socially awkward or tactless act

**SPOONERISM** – from Reverend William Spooner, British educator, who was famous for such verbal accidents; an accidental transposition of initial consonant sounds or parts of words, especially in an amusing way like "well-boiled icicle" instead of "well-oiled bicycle"

**THESPIAN** – from Thespis, the father of Greek tragedy; an actor

**UTOPIAN** – from book titled **UTOPIA** written by Thomas Moore, about an imaginary island enjoying perfect legal, social, and political systems; idealistic but impractical; pertaining to a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy

**VOLT** – from Italian physicist Alessandro Volta, who perfected a chemical process used in batteries; a unit of electric potential

**YAHOO** – from a race of brutish human creatures called Yahoos in Jonathan Swift's book, **GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**; a degraded human specimen; rude, loud and unpleasant person especially one without education

## TYPICAL WORDS: WORDS RELATED TO SPECIFIC FIELDS

### ANATOMY (THE HUMAN BODY)

**ABLATION (N)** surgical removal of a body part or tissue  
**AMBULATORY (ADJ)** able to walk or move about  
**AURAL (ADJ)** pertaining to the ear or to the sense of hearing  
**LACUNA (N)** hollow cavity or small pit; defect or gap  
**MANDIBLE (N)** horseshoe-shaped bone forming the lower jaw  
**MYOPIC (ADJ)** nearsighted; unable to see distant objects clearly  
**OLFACTORY (ADJ)** pertaining to the sense of smell  
**PALATE (N)** the roof of the mouth  
**PERISTALSIS (N)** involuntary contractions that move food through the digestive system  
**SOMATIC (ADJ)** pertaining to the body  
**SURDITY (N)** deafness  
**TACTILE (ADJ)** pertaining to the sense of touch

### ARCHITECTURE

**ARCADE (N)** a set of arches supporting or set along a wall  
**BASTILLE (N)** a French fortification or castle, typically used as a prison  
**BASTION (N)** a projection from an outer wall of a fortification designed to defend the adjacent perimeter  
**BULWARK (N)** a strong defensive wall structure  
**BUTTRESS (N)** an extra thickness or projection in a wall designed to strengthen it  
**CANTILEVER (N)** a projecting structure that is attached or supported only at one end  
**CONCOURSE (N)** a large open space where people can meet  
**CUPOLA (N)** a rounded dome forming a roof or ceiling  
**EDIFICE (N)** a large, impressive building  
**FACADE (N)** the exterior front or face of a building  
**FENESTRATION (N)** the arrangements of windows in a building  
**KEystone (N)** the central stone at the top of the arch, that holds the whole structure together; most important  
**MAUSOLEUM (N)** a large burial chamber, usually above ground  
**OBELISK (N)** a tall stone column with four sloping sides and a pointed top  
**PLINTH (N)** the lower square slab at the base of a column  
**STUCCO (N)** plaster or cement used for coating wall surfaces  
**VAULT (N)** arched roof; a continuous arch

### ASTRONOMY

**APHELION (N)** farthest point from the sun  
**APOGEE (N)** farthest point from the earth  
**ASTERISM (N)** cluster of stars  
**AURORA (N)** bands of light produced by an atmospheric phenomenon  
**AZIMUTH (N)** measurement of direction, expressed as an angle and measured clockwise from a celestial reference point  
**CORONA (N)** the outermost portion of the sun's atmosphere  
**COSMOGONY (N)** the study of the origin of the universe  
**FACULA (N)** a large, bright spot on the sun's surface, most easily seen near the edge  
**NADIR (N)** the point on the celestial sphere directly below the observer and directly opposite the zenith  
**NEBULA (N)** an immense irregular, diffuse interstellar cloud of gas and dust  
**NOVA (N)** star showing a sudden flash of brightness and then subsiding  
**ORRERY (N)** a model of the solar system  
**PENUMBRA (N)** a partial outer shadow lighter than the darker inner shadow  
**PERIHELION (N)** nearest point from the sun  
**PERIGEE (N)** nearest point from the earth  
**PULSAR (N)** a small dense star that emits brief intense bursts of visible radiation, radio waves and X-rays  
**SYZYGy (N)** conjunction / opposition of the moon and the sun  
**UMBRA (N)** the region of total shadow in an eclipse; the inner, darker area of a sunspot  
**VESPERTINE (N)** sunset time; very close to sunset  
**ZENITH (N)** the point of the celestial sphere directly over the observer

### CIVIL LAW

**AFFIDAVIT (N)** written declaration of fact, made under oath (or affirmation) of the party making it  
**AGENCY (N)** a relationship in which one party is legally authorised to act on behalf of another  
**AMERCE (V)** to punish by fine  
**ANNUL (V)** to make or declare invalid or void  
**ATTEST (V)** to state a fact in writing and swear to its truthfulness  
**BARRISTER (N)** in Canada, a lawyer who represents clients in any court; in England and Wales, lawyer who represents clients in higher law courts  
**BEQUEATH (V)** to leave property to someone after death by means of will; hand down knowledge or practice to posterity

**BREACH (V)** to break a law or contractual promise

**CODICIL (N)** an addition to a will that explains, modifies or revokes a part of or the entire will

**COMMON LAW (N)** law derived from custom and precedents rather than statutes

**CONSERVATOR (N)** one authorised to protect interests of another who is legally incompetent

**DECEDENT (N)** a deceased person

**DECREE (N)** an official legal order

**DEMUR (V)** to claim that even if another party's facts are true there is no legitimate claim or legal recourse

**DEPOSITION (N)** the process of giving a sworn evidence; testimony

**ESCROW (N)** money, property, or a written bond that is kept in the custody of a third party until a specified condition has been fulfilled

**FELONY (N)** a crime, usually involving violence and regarded by the law as grave

**FIDUCIARY (N)** trustee charged with the legal responsibility for administering and/or managing another's assets

**FORENSIC (N)** of or used in connection with courts of law

**FRANCHISE (N)** a right or privilege granted by authority (especially, suffrage – the right to vote)

**HABEAS CORPUS (N)** a writ requiring a person to be produced in court to investigate the legality of his / her detention

**IMPEACH (V)** to discredit; to charge somebody with a crime or misdemeanour

**INDEMNIFY (V)** to restore a victim of a loss to the same position as before the loss occurred

**INDEMNITY (N)** legal exemption from penalties etc. incurred

**INDICTMENT (N)** a formal accusation

**INTESTATE (ADJ)** dying without making a will

**IN FLAGRANTE DELICTO (ADJ)** in the very act of committing a crime; red-handed

**JURISDICTION (N)** the authority (usually of a court) to hear and decide legal disputes

**LIBEL (N)** slander or malign

**MITIGATE (V)** to minimise or lessen the severity of damage

**NOTARY (N)** a person who is officially authorised to authenticate legal documents (contracts, deeds, etc.)

**PAROLE (N)** temporary (or permanent) release of a prisoner before time on the promise of (and based on) good behaviour

**PLAINTIFF (N)** a person who brings a case against another in a court of law

**PROBATE (V)** the official proving of a will

**PROXY (N)** authority to act (for example, to vote) for another

**QUITCLAIM (V)** to transfer or relinquish title, right or claim to another; to declare somebody to be no longer legally liable for something

**REMISE (V)** to surrender or make over a right or property

**RESCIND (V)** to cancel, nullify, revoke; retract; annul; to invalidate by subsequent action

**REVOCABLE (ADJ)** capable of being revoked or cancelled

**SEQUESTERATE (V)** to take temporary possession of a debtor's estate etc.

**STATUTE (N)** a written law passed by a legislative body

**STIPULATE (V)** to specify, require or set forth a particular fact as a condition of an agreement

**SUBPOENA (N)** a court order compelling a witness to provide information or to be present at a court hearing

**SUBROGATE (V)** to substitute one party (e.g., a creditor) for another in transferring a right or claim

**TESTATOR (N)** one who has made a will

**TORT (N)** a wrongful act for which damages can be sought by the injured party

**TRAVERSE (V)** deny an allegation by pleading

**ULTRA VIRES (ADJ)** beyond one's legal power or authority

**VEST (V)** to settle or confer, or be a part of somebody's property, power or rights

**WAIVE (V)** to voluntarily give up or surrender a right or privilege

## GEOGRAPHY

**ACCRETION (N)** gradual addition of new layers of land to the old by alluvial deposits or water-borne sediment

**AGGRADE (V)** to build up a grade or slope by the deposit of sediment

**ALLUVIAL (ADJ)** pertaining to sediment deposited by flowing water, usually at the bottom of a body of water

**ALPINE (ADJ)** pertaining to the Alps; living or growing above timber line

**APEX (N)** tip, point or angular summit (of a mountain)

**AVULSION (N)** rapid erosion of a shoreline during a flood or change in course of body of water

**BENTHAL (ADJ)** pertaining to the deepest zone or region of the ocean; relating to or happening on the bottom under a body of water

**CALDERA (N)** a crater formed at the top of a volcanic mountain

**CATARACT (N)** a waterfall of great volume in which the vertical flow is concentrated in one sheer drop

**CONFLUENCE (N)** the point of convergence and uniting of two streams

**EDDY (N)** circular movement of water produced by counter currents

**ESTUARY (N)** arm of sea that extends inland to meet the mouth of a river; river basin affected by ocean tides, having a mixture of fresh and salt water

**FJORD (N)** a long narrow body of water sheltered by high cliffs on both sides

**MERIDIAN (N)** an imaginary circle, passing through both north and south poles

**SEDIMENTARY (ADJ)** describing accumulation of material deposited by water, wind or glaciers

**STEPPE (N)** vast, open land with no green cover; a characteristic of Eastern Europe and Central Russia

**TUNDRA (N)** a vast, cold treeless region between the icecap and the treeline of Arctic regions

**VELD (N)** open grassland with grasses and shrubs; a characteristic of South Africa

## GOVERNMENT / POLITICS

- AMNESTY (N)** a general pardon by a government for past offences
- DESPOT (N)** cruel and oppressive dictator
- HEGEMONY (N)** domination by one state over others
- INSURGENCY (N)** a minor revolt against a local government; uprising
- MANDATE (N)** authority conferred on an elected official by the electorate
- MORATORIUM (N)** a legally authorised period of delay in the performance of a legal obligation or the payment of a debt; a waiting period set by an authority; a suspension of activity
- POLITY (N)** a system or form of government
- POTENTATE (N)** a monarch, dictator; person possessing great power
- RATIFY (V)** to approve officially; sanction; confirm
- REFERENDUM (N)** popular vote on either proposed legislation or a popular initiative
- REGIME (N)** the government of a specific leader; administration
- SECEDE (N)** to separate from an organised body of government
- SUBJUGATE (V)** to conquer or dominate a people or territory
- SUBVERT (V)** to overthrow, ruin, corrupt or otherwise undermine the stability or order of a government
- SUFFRAGE (N)** the right to vote
- THRALLDOM (N)** slavery; serfdom
- TITULAR (ADJ)** in title only (e.g. a monarch or president); nominal and without actual power or authority
- TYRANNY (N)** absolute authority, usually exercised oppressively
- USURP (V)** to assume political power or office by force or without right

## LINGUISTICS

- ANACHRONISM (N)** a word or expression not corresponding to the language of a given period of history; anything seemingly from another time
- ANAGRAM (N)** a word or group of words made by rearranging the letters of another word or group of words
- APHASIA (N)** loss of the ability to understand or produce speech, as a result of brain damage
- ARGOT (N)** specialised language and idioms of a group
- CANT (V)** hypocritical talk
- COLLOQUIAL (ADJ)** informal spoken or written expression
- DIALECT (N)** a distinctive regional variety of a language
- EUPHONIC (ADJ)** having an agreeable or pleasing sound
- IDIOM (N)** an expression which has a special meaning different from the meaning of the individual words that make up the expression
- LEXICON (N)** collection of words arranged alphabetically and their definitions
- LOCUTION (N)** a particular form of expression or a peculiarity of phrasing
- PATOIS (N)** regional form of a language

**PEJORATIVE (ADJ)** negative in connotation; belittling

**PERORATION (N)** the concluding part of a public address or speech (especially, summing up and recapitulating key points and/or exhorting and uplifting the audience)

**PHONETIC (ADJ)** based on sounds (e.g. the phonetic spelling of a word)

**RHETORIC (N)** study of the technique and rules of effective usage of language; using language effectively to please or persuade

**ROSTRUM (N)** a platform for public speaking; dais

**SEMANTIC (ADJ)** connected with the meanings of words

**SYNTAX (N)** grammatical arrangement of words in a sentence

**TRANSCRIBE (V)** to reduce speech to a written form

## LITERATURE

**ALLEGORY (N)** a style that uses fictional characters and events to describe something; use of extended metaphors as a device for teaching a lesson

**ALLUSION (N)** reference in a literary work to an identifiable person, event, place or passage

**ANTHOLOGY (N)** a collection selections from the writing of one or more authors

**APOCRYPHAL (ADJ)** of unknown authorship or doubtful integrity

**DENOUEMENT (N)** the final unfolding of a plot; the final resolution or outcome following the climax

**DOGGEREL (N)** poetic verse of generally poor quality; verse characterised by a crude, rough or irregular style

**ELEGY (N)** poem (or song) of mourning; a lament

**EPIC (N)** a long narrative poem about a hero's deeds; very imposing or impressive

**EUPHEMISM (N)** a pleasant or complimentary word or phrase used instead of one that is harsh or derogatory

**FIGURATIVE (ADJ)** words and phrases used not with their basic meaning but a more imaginative meaning

**LIMERICK (N)** a somewhat humorous poem of 5 lines in which the first, second and fifth lines rhyme and the third and fourth lines which are shorter than the other three, form a rhymed couplet

**METAPHOR (N)** a comparison between two unlike things that is not so apparent, yet very suggestive and forceful, as in "she has a heart of stone"

**MOTIF (N)** a dominant idea of central theme; a design that consists of recurring shapes or colours

**PASTICHE (N)** a literary, artistic, musical or architectural work that is a stylistic imitation of a previous work; a literary, artistic or musical work made up of selections from different works

**PSEUDONYM (N)** a fictitious name used by an author

**SATIRE (N)** a literary form employing irony, ridicule and sarcasm

**SIMILE (N)** a comparison of two unlike things using 'like' or 'as'.

**SCHOLIAST (N)** an ancient commentator or annotator of classic texts

**TREATISE (N)** a comprehensive and systematic literary examination of a particular subject

**VIGNETTE (N)** a short piece of writing, music or acting; small illustrative sketch; a photograph with edges that shade off gradually

## PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC

**AUTONOMY (N)** independence from external constraints; self-determination

**CANON (N)** a rule, norm, tenet or principle that is logically consistent

**CORPOREAL (ADJ)** relating to the body or to physical matter

**DIALECTIC (N)** a formal system of reasoning that arrives at the truth by the exchange of logical arguments; a way of discovering what is true by considering opposite theories

**EMPIRICAL (N)** based on direct or practical observation and experience

**FALLACIOUS (ADJ)** logically unsound; misleading or deceptive

**HEURISTIC (ADJ)** serving to persuade through discovery and revelation rather than through logic or rhetoric; allowing to learn by discovering from own experiences rather than by telling

**METAPHYSICS (N)** the part of philosophy about understanding existence and knowledge

**NIHILISM (N)** the belief that there is no purpose to existence; rejection of established laws and institutions

**NON SEQUITUR (N)** that which does not follow logically

**ONTOLOGY (N)** a branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature and relations of being

**PARADOX (N)** a seemingly contradictory assertion that may nevertheless be true or valid

**POSTULATE (N)** a hypothesis that cannot be demonstrated; a proposition accepted as true in order to provide a basis for logical reasoning

**TAUTOLOGY (N)** an unnecessary repetition of a word or phrase that does not add to the clarity of the term. An example would be "widow woman" or "he will either win or not win"

## THEATRE, ARTS AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

**DEBUT (N)** an actor's first performance; appear for the first time in public

**HISTRIONICS (N)** acting in highly theatrical or overly dramatic, exaggerated style; very emotional and energetic behaviour but lacking in sincerity and real meaning

**IMPRESARIO (N)** a manager, promoter or sponsor for performing artists; a sponsor who books and stages public entertainments

**LIBRETTIST (N)** a person who writes the words for an opera or a musical

**MARQUEE (N)** covering like roof, often of metal and glass projecting out over the entrance to a hotel or theatre; a large tent used for social or commercial functions; a scrolling screen message

**ODEUM (N)** small theatre or concert hall

**PANTOMIME (N)** performance using gestures and body movements without words

**PERIPETEIA (N)** a sudden or unexpected reversal of circumstances or situation, especially in a literary work

**REPERTORY (N)** a theatrical company that presents several different plays, operas or pieces in the course of a season at one theatre; one's entire range of skills, aptitudes or devices

**TABLEAU (N)** a stage picture created by actors posing motionless

## COLLECTIVE NOUNS

### COLLECTION OF ANIMALS/BIRDS

- an **ASCENSION/EXALTATION** of larks
- a **BARREN/RAKE** of mules
- a **BED** of clams
- a **BED** of oysters
- a **BEVY** of larks or quails
- a **BEVY/BANK** of swans
- a **BROOD** of chickens
- a **BUILDING/CLAMOUR** of rooks
- a **BUSINESS** of ferrets
- a **CAST** of hawks
- a **CATCH/HAUL/SOAL/SCHOOL** of fish
- a **CETE** of badgers
- a **CHARM** of finches
- a **CLOUD** of locusts
- a **CLUSTER** of cats
- a **CLUTTER/CLUSTER** of spiders
- a **COLONY/BURY/NEST** of rabbits
- a **COMPANY** of parrots
- a **CONGREGATION** of plovers
- a **CONVOCATION** of eagles
- a **COVEY** of partridges
- a **COVEY/NYE/BOUQUET** of pheasants
- a **CRASH** of rhinoceroses
- a **CRECHE/HUDDLE/COLONY** of penguins
- a **DEN/BED/PIT/NEST/SLITHER** of snakes
- a **DESERT/DECEIT** of lapwings
- a **DESCENT** of woodpeckers
- a **DRAY** of squirrels
- a **DROVE** of cattle/horses/ponies (driven together)
- a **DROVE/HERD/SOUNDER** of pigs
- an **EXALTATION** of larks
- a **FALL** of lambs
- a **FLIGHT** of birds, bees or insects
- a **FLOCK/GAGGLE** of geese/swans
- a **FLOCK** of seagulls
- a **FLOCK** of sheep/bird
- a **FLOCK/TRIP** of sheep
- a **FLUTHER/SMACK** of jellyfish
- a **GAZE** of raccoons
- a **HERD** of cattle/deer/swine/elephants/antelopes/horses
- a **KINDLE** of kittens
- a **KNOT** of frogs

- a **LABOUR/COMPANY/MOVEMENT** of moles
- a **LEAP** of leopards
- a **LITTER** of pigs/dogs/cats (brought forth at one birth)
- a **LITTER** of piglets
- a **LOFT/FARROW** of pigeons
- a **MOB/TROOP** of kangaroos
- a **MUSTER** of storks
- an **OSTENTATION** of peacocks
- a **NIDE** of pheasants
- a **NEST/MISCHIEF** of mice
- a **NEST** of vipers
- a **PACK/COLONY/SWARM/RABBLE** of rats
- a **PACK** of asses/hounds
- a **PACK/ROUT** of wolves
- a **PADDLING** of ducks
- a **PARCEL/PASSEL** of hogs
- a **PARLIAMENT** of owls
- a **PARTY/BAND** of jays
- a **PLAGUE** of locusts
- a **PLUMP** of wildfowls
- a **POD** of whales/dolphins
- a **PRIDE/SPAN** of peacocks
- a **PRIDE/SOWSE/SAULT** of lions
- a **ROOKERY** of penguins
- a **ROUT** of snails
- a **RUN/BIND** of salmon
- a **SCHOOL/HERD/POD/GAM** of whales
- a **SIEGE** of herons
- a **SKEIN** of geese
- a **SOUNDER** of pigs
- a **SPRING/POD** of seals
- a **STRING** of camels
- a **STARE** of owls
- a **STREAK/An AMBUSH** of tigers
- a **SWARM** of bees
- a **TEAM/YOKE/SPAN** of oxen
- a **TIDINGS** of magpies
- a **TROOP** of monkeys
- a **TRIBE/MISSION** of monkeys
- a **TURN/DULE/BALE** of turtles
- an **UBIQUITY/QUARREL/HOST** of sparrows
- an **UNKINDNESS/CONSPIRACY** of ravens
- a **WATCH** of nightingales
- a **WEDGE** of swans (flying)
- a **WISP** of snipes
- a **WRACK** of kittens (rabbits)
- a **ZEAL/HERD** of zebra

## COLLECTION OF THINGS

- an **AGENDA** of tasks
- an **ANTHOLOGY** of poems/prose
- an **ARCHIPELAGO** of islands
- an **ATLAS** of maps
- a **BALE** of cotton/wool
- a **BANK** of monitors
- a **BASKET** of fruits
- a **BATTERY** of tests
- a **BOOK** of wagers
- a **BRACE** of pistols
- a **BUDGET** of letters
- a **BUNCH/BOUQUET** of flowers
- a **BUNCH** of things
- a **BUNCH** of keys/grapes/plantains
- a **BUNDLE** of sticks/hay
- a **CARILLON** of bells
- a **CHAIN** of mountains
- a **CHAIN/An ARCHIPELAGO** of islands
- a **CACHE** of jewels
- a **CHEST** of drawers
- a **CLUMP/FOREST/GROVE** of trees
- a **CLUSTER/GALAXY/CONSTELLATION** of stars
- a **CLUSTER** of nuts/grapes on a bunch
- a **CLUTCH** of eggs
- a **CODE** of law
- a **COLLECTION** of objects
- a **CONSIGNMENT** of goods
- a **CONVOY** of merchant ships
- a **CONVOY** of trucks
- a **COURSE** of lectures
- a **CRATE** of fruit/crockery
- a **FAGOT** of sticks
- a **FALL** of snow
- a **FIELD** of athletes
- a **FLEET** of ships
- a **FLIGHT** of stairs
- a **FLOTILLA/FLEET/ARMADA** of ships
- a **GALAXY** of stars
- a **GARLAND** of flowers
- a **GROVE/THICKET/STAND** of trees
- a **HAMLET** of houses (in a village)
- a **HEAP** of stones/sand
- a **HEAP** of trash
- a **HERBARIUM** of dried plants
- a **LEAGUE** of nations
- a **LIBRARY/PILE** of books

- a **LOCK** of hair
- a **NEST** of machine-guns
- a **PAIR** of shoes/scissors
- a **PACK** of submarines
- a **PEAL** of bells
- a **PENCIL** of rays
- a **PURSE** of winnings
- a **QUIVER** of rebuttals
- a **RANGE** of mountains
- a **RING** of keys
- a **ROPE** of pearls
- a **SERIES** of events
- a **SET** of tools
- a **SET** of tennis games
- a **SHEAF** of corn
- a **SHOWER** of rains/arrows
- a **SKEIN** of woollen thread
- a **STACK/TRUSS** of hay
- a **SUITE** of wood/corn piled together
- a **TRAIN** of wagons and carriages
- a **VOLLEY/BARRAGE/BATTERY** of questions
- a **WAD** of money
- a **WREATH/ROSARY** of flowers
- a **WEALTH** of information
- a **CREW** of sailors
- a **CROWD** of onlookers
- a **DEN** of thieves
- a **FLOCK** of tourists
- a **GANG** of prisoners/robbers/thieves/convicts
- a **GATHERING/SOCIETY** of people
- a **HORDE** of savages
- a **HOST** of angels
- a **HOUSE** of senators
- a **JURY/PANEL** of jurymen engaged in a case
- a **NEVERTHRIVING** of jugglers
- a **NUMBER/SET** of mathematicians
- a **PONDER** of philosophers
- a **POSSE** of constables called to enforce the law
- a **ROUT/BANNER** of knights
- a **SUPERFLUITY** of nuns
- a **STAFF** of officials/servants
- a **TEAM** of players
- a **TROUPE** of artists/dancers/acrobats
- a **TRIBE** of natives

### COLLECTION OF PEOPLE

- an **ARMY** of soldiers
- a **BAND** of musicians
- a **BAND** of (merry) men
- a **BATTALION/REGIMENT** of soldiers
- a **BENCH** of judges or bishops
- a **BEVY** of girls
- a **BOARD** of directors/trustees
- a **BEVY** of ladies
- a **CARAVAN** of merchants/pilgrims/travellers
- a **CLASS/BATCH** of students
- a **COMPANY** of soldiers/merchants/actors/friends
- **COMPANY/BRIGADE/SQUAD/PLATOON/DIVISION** of soldiers
- a **CONCOURSE / THRONG / ASSEMBLY / CROWD / MULTITUDE** of people
- a **COLONY** of lepers
- **CONGREGATION** of worshippers
- a **CONGRESS** of representatives
- a **COUNCIL** of advisors/lawyers
- a **CONVERTING** of preachers
- **COVEN** of witches

## FAMILY TIES

Animal	Male	Female	Young
■ Antelope	buck	doe	kid
■ Ass/donkey	jackass	jenny	colt (male), filly (female)
■ Bear	boar	sow	cub
■ Buffalo	bull	cow	calf
■ Camel	bull	cow	calf
■ Cat	tom	queen	kitten
■ Cattle	bull	cow	calf/heifer
■ Deer	stag/buck	doe	fawn/kid
■ Dog	dog	bitch	pup/whelp
■ Fox	dog	vixen	cub
■ Goat	billy-goat	nanny-goat	kid
■ Goose	gander	goose	gosling
■ Hare	buck	doe	leveret
■ Horse	stallion	mare	foal, colt (male), filly (female)
■ Kangaroo	buck / boomer	doe	joey
■ Leopard	leopard	leopardess	cub
■ Lion	lion	lioness	cub
■ Peacock	peacock	peahen	peachick
■ Pig	boar/hog	sow/gilt	piglet
■ Sheep	ram/tup	ewe	lamb
■ Swan	cob	pen	cygnet
■ Tiger	tiger	tigress	cub
■ Whale	bull	cow	calf
■ Wolf	dog	bitch	pup / cub / whelp
■ Zebra	stallion	mare	foal, Colt (male), Filly (female)

## ADJECTIVES DERIVED FROM ANIMAL LIFE

Animal	Related Adjective
■ Ape/monkey	simian / pongid
■ Ass/donkey	asinine
■ Bear	ursine
■ Bee	apian
■ Cat	feline
■ Cattle	bovine / taurine (male)
■ Crab	crustacean
■ Crow	corvine
■ Deer	cervine
■ Dog	canine
■ Eagle	aquiline
■ Fox	vulpine
■ Goat	caprine / hircine
■ Horse	equine
■ Kangaroo	macropine
■ Leopard	pardine
■ Lion	leonine
■ Lizard	saurian
■ Mouse/Rat	murine
■ Parrot	psittacine
■ Pig	porcine/suilline
■ Sheep	ovine
■ Snake	anguine/colubrine, ophidian/serpentine
■ Sparrow	passerine
■ Spider	arachnoid
■ Tiger	tigrine
■ Whale	cetacean
■ Wolf	lupine
■ Zebra	zebrine



# Topicwise words

## MANIA

*(Mania means a severe addiction to or an uncontrollable obsession for something. Mania = noun, maniac = noun, maniacal/manic = adjective.)*

**ABLUTOMANIA** – washing or bathing

**ACROMANIA/ALTOMANIA** – heights, high places

**AGORAMANIA** – open or public places

**AGRIOZOOMANIA** – wild animals

**AILUROMANIA** – cats

**ALGOMANIA** – pain

**AMBULOMANIA** – walking

**ANDROMANIA** – men

**ANGLOMANIA** – things English

**ARACHNEMANIA, ARACHNOMANIA** – spiders

**ARITHMOMANIA** – numbers

**ATAXOMANIA** – disorder or untidiness

**AUROMANIA** – gold

**BATHYMANIA** – depth or deep water

**BIBLIOMANIA** – books

**BRONTOMANIA** – thunder and lightning

**CACOMANIA** – ugliness

**CALIGYNEMANIA** – beautiful women

**CENOMANIA** – empty spaces

**CHIROMANIA** – hands

**CHROMATOMANIA** – colors

**CHROMETOMANIA** – money

**CLAUSTROMANIA** – confinement

**CYNOMANIA** – dogs or rabies

**DENDROMANIA** – trees

**DIPSOMANIA** – drinking (spirits. alcohol)

**DROMOMANIA** – the road: travel, wandering, journeys

**ENOCHLOMANIA** – crowds

**FIBRIOMANIA** – fevers

**GAMOMANIA** – marriages

**GEPHYROMANIA** – crossing bridges

**GERONTOMANIA** – old people

**GNOSIOMANIA** – knowledge

**GRAPHOMANIA** – writing or script

**HELIOMANIA** – the sun or sunlight

**HIPPOMANIA** – horses (Better than equinomania)

**HOMOMANIA** – people/sameness/homosexuals

**HYGROMANIA** – liquid or moisture

**HYPNOMANIA** – sleep or hypnosis

**IATROMANIA** – doctors

**ICHTHYOMANIA** – fishes

**ILLYNGOMANIA** – vertigo

**KAINOMANIA** – novelty, innovation

**KATAGELOMANIA** – ridicule

**KLEPTOMANIA** – stealing

**KONIOMANIA** – dust

**LACHANOMANIA** – vegetables

**LALOMANIA** – speaking

**LEUKOMANIA** – white, the color

**LOGOMANIA** – words

**LOUTROMANIA** – washing or bathing

**MEGALOMANIA** – large things

**MELANOMANIA** – black, the color

**MISOMANIA** – hatred

**NECROMANIA** – death or dead things

**NEPHOMANIA** – clouds

**NOSOMANIA** – illness or disease

**NYCTOMANIA** – night, dark

**OCHLOMANIA** – crowds or mobs

**OENOMANIA** – wines

**OPIOMANIA** – medicine

**PANTOMANIA** – everything

**PLUTOMANIA** – wealth

**PYREXIOMANIA** – fever

**PYROMANIA** – fire

**SELENOMANIA** – the moon

**SINISTROMANIA** – things to the left or left-handedness

**THALASSOMANIA** – sea, ocean

**THANATOMANIA** – death or dying

**TOMOMANIA** – surgical operations

**TOXOMANIA** – poison or being poisoned

**TYPHLOMANIA** – blindness

**VESTIMANIA** – clothing

**XANTHOMANIA** – the colour yellow

**XENOMANIA** – strangers or foreigners

**XEROMANIA** – dryness

# PHOBIA

*(Phobia means an excessive and irrational fear of or a morbid dread of something. Phobia = noun, phobic = adjective, phobist = noun.)*

**AEROPHOBIA** – fear of air

**ANTHOPHOBIA** – fear of flowers

**ANTHROPOPHOBIA** – fear of people

**ANUPTAPHOBIA** – fear of remaining unmarried or single

**ATELOPHOBIA** – fear of imperfection

**ATYCHIPHOBIA** – fear of failure

**AUTOPHOBIA** – fear of being by oneself or of being in solitude

**AVIOPHOBIA, AVIATOPHOBIA** – fear of flying

**BATHYPHOBIA** – fear of depths

**BATRACHOPHOBIA** – fear of amphibians such as frogs

**BELONEPHOBIA** – fear of sharp, pointed objects

**BRONTOPHOBIA** – fear of thunder and lightning

**CACOPHOBIA** – fear of ugliness

**CALLOPHOBIA** – fear of beauty

**CATAPEDOPHOBIA** – fear of jumping

**CENOPHOBIA** – fear of empty spaces

**CHIONOPHOBIA** – fear of snow

**CHROMOPHOBIA / CHROMATOPHOBIA** – fear of colours

**CHROMETOPHOBIA** – fear of money

**CLAUSTROPHOBIA** – fear of closed spaces, confinement

**DEMOPHOBIA** – fear of crowds

**DEMONOPHOBIA** – fear of ghosts and spirits

**DENDROPHOBIA** – fear of trees

**DIKEPHOBIA** – fear of justice, lawsuits

**ECCLESOPHOBIA** – fear of churches, religion

**EISOPTROPHOBIA** – fear of mirrors

**EMETOPHOBIA** – fear of vomiting

**ENTOMOPHOBIA** – fear of insects

**ERGOPHOBIA** – fear of work

**FRANCOPHOBIA** – fear of France, all things French

**GAMOPHOBIA** – fear of marriage

**GERAPHOBIA** – fear of old age

**GERONTOPHOBIA** – fear of old men

**GNOSIOPHOBIA** – fear of knowledge

**GYMNOPHOBIA** – fear of nudity

**GYNEPHOBIA** – fear of women

**HAEMATOPHOBIA** – fear of blood

**HAGIOPHOBIA** – fear of saints / holy things

**HAPHEPHOBIA / HAPTEPHOBIA** – fear of being touched

**HARPAXOPHOBIA** – fear of being robbed

**HELIOPHOBIA** – fear of sun / sunlight

**HERPETOPHOBIA** – fear of reptiles like snakes etc.

**HODOPHOBIA** – fear of travel by road

**ICHTHYOPHOBIA** – fear of fish

**ISOLOPHOBIA** – fear of being alone, solitude

**KAKORRHAPIOPHOBIA** – fear of failure or defeat

**KOPOPHOBIA** – fear of fatigue

**LIGYROPHOBIA** – fear of loud or shrill noises

**LYGOPHOBIA** – fear of darkness

**LYSSOPHOBIA** – fear of rabies or madness

**MAGEIROCOPHOBIA** – fear of cooking

**MAIEUSIOPHOBIA** – fear of childbirth

**MICROPHOBIA** – fear of small things

**MYSOPHOBIA** – fear of dirt or contamination

**NEOPHOBIA** – fear of change

**NOSOCOMEPHOBIA** – fear of hospitals

**OCHLOPHOBIA** – fear of crowds

**OCHOPHOBIA** – fear of vehicles

**OMBROPHOBIA** – fear of rain

**ONEIROPHOBIA** – fear of dreams

**PANOPHOBIA / PANTOPHOBIA** – fear of everything

**PHARMACOPHOBIA** – fear of medicine

**PHASMOPHOBIA** – fear of ghosts

**PHONOPHOBIA** – fear of sounds including one's own voice

**PODOPHOBIA** – fear of feet

**PORNOPHOBIA** – fear of prostitutes

**POTAMOPHOBIA** – fear of rivers or running water

**RHYTOPHOBIA** – fear of wrinkles or getting wrinkles

**SCIOPHOBIA** – fear of shadows

**SCOPOPHOBIA** – fear of being looked at

**SELACHOPHOBIA** – fear of sharks

**SOCIOPHOBIA** – fear of society or people in general

**SPECTROPHOBIA** – fear of mirrors

**STYGIOPHOBIA** – fear of hell

**TACHOPHOBIA** – fear of speed

**THALASSOPHOBIA** – fear of seas and oceans

**TRISKAIDEKAPHOBIA** – fear of the number 13

**TRICHOPHOBIA** – fear of hair

**XENOPHOBIA** – fear of foreigners or strangers

**ZOOPHOBIA** – fear of animals

## PERSONALITY TYPES / PERSONALITY TRAITS

**ADONIS** – a handsome young man loved by the Greek goddess of love; any handsome young man

**ADROIT** – quick and skilful in thought or action

**AESTHETE** – a person who studies and enjoys beauty

**AGNOSTIC** – a person who is not sure whether God exists

**ALTER EGO** – the side of one's personality usually not seen by others

**ALTRUIST** – one willing to help others even it causes disadvantage to oneself

**AMAZON** – a tall, strong, masculine woman

**AMBIDEXTROUS** – able to use both hands with equal ease

**AMBIVERT** – a person who has qualities of an introvert as well as an extrovert

**ASCETIC** – one who leads a life of self-denial, avoiding physical pleasures

**ATHEIST** – one who does not believe that God exists

**BIGAMIST** – one who illegally marries a person while already legally married to another

**CHAUVINIST** – a person with a prejudiced belief in the superiority of one's own race, cause or nation

**CIRCE** – the enchantress in Greek mythology who lured sailors to her island and turned them into pigs

**CLAIRVOYANT** – a person who claims to see the future or things others cannot see

**COMPLACENT** – one who feels satisfied in one's condition or situation, not feeling any need to try harder

**CONNOISSEUR** – an expert, especially in judging excellence in food, arts etc.

**CONSERVATIVE** – one who has old ideas; resistant to change

**COQUETTE** – a seductive woman who uses sex appeal to exploit men

**DEMAGOGUE** – a person who wins support by exciting emotions and prejudices

**DEXTEROUS** – ability to think or act skilfully or quickly

**DILETTANTE** – a person who appears interested but has a shallow understanding of a subject, especially arts

**EGOCENTRIC** – with a great feeling of one's own importance and ability

**EGOIST** – self-centred person with little regard for others

**EGOTIST** – one who talks excessively about oneself; conceited and self-centred

**ELITE** – the socially superior part of a society; the creamy layer; best of a class

**EPICUREAN** – one who is devoted to the best forms of sensuous enjoyment

**ERUDITE** – having or showing profound knowledge

**EXTROVERT** – an energetic, happy, outgoing person who enjoys being with others

**FUTILITARIAN** – one who believes that human efforts are futile

**GAUCHE** – young, inexperienced, awkward and uncomfortable with other people

**GLUTTON** – one who eats and drinks in excess

**GOURMAND** – someone greatly interested in good food and drink

**GOURMET** – a connoisseur of food and drink

**GREGARIOUS** – a person who seeks and enjoys the company of others

**GULLIBLE** – someone who is too trusting and easily deceived

**ICONOCLAST** – one who strongly opposes generally accepted beliefs and traditions

**INDEFATIGABLE** – determined, energetic and never willing to admit defeat

**INHIBITED** – a person who is too shy to say or do what he wants to

**INTELLIGENTSIA** – highly educated and especially interested in arts and politics

**INTROVERT** – someone who is shy, quiet and unable to make friends easily

**JINGOIST** – strong believer in one's own nation's superiority

**JUDAS** – a person who can betray anyone

**LIBERAL** – someone who favours reform and progress; tolerant; broad-minded

**MAGNANIMOUS** – very large-hearted, extremely forgiving by nature

**MARTINET** – strict disciplinarian; someone who demands absolute conformity to rules and forms

**MASOCHIST** – a person who enjoys receiving punishment

**MAUDLIN** – feeling sad and very sorry for oneself

**MISANTHROPE** – one who dislikes other human beings and avoids involvement with society

**MISOGAMIST** – a person who hates marriage

**MISOGYNIST** – one who hates women

**MODEST** – simple; humble in spirit or manner

**MONOGAMIST** – one who believes in and practises being married to one person at a time

**NUMISMATIST** – a collector of coins

**OBSEQUIOUS** – excessively servile

**OPINIONATED** – a person who stubbornly sticks to his or her own opinions

**PANDERER** – a person who caters to the vulgar passions or plans of others; a pimp

**PARVENU** – someone who has newly acquired wealth and position but does not have the social skills to go with the new status

**PEDAGOGUE** – a teacher who is too formal and not very interesting

**PEDANT** – one who gives too much attention to formal rules or minor details

**PERSPICACIOUS** – one quick in noticing, understanding or judging things accurately; a very brilliant person

**PHILANTHROPIST** – one who helps poor people; lover of mankind

**PHILATELIST** – a collector of stamps

**PHLEGMATIC** – a person who stays calm and does not get emotional or excited in any situation

**POLYGAMIST** – one who believes in and practises being married to more than one person at a time

**POLYGLOT** – a person who can speak many languages

**POMPOUS** – too serious about and full of oneself

**PUERILE** – immature, silly, trivial, childish

**PUNCTILIOUS** – very particular about correct behaviour and attention to detail

**PUSILLANIMOUS** – one who lacks courage, strength and resolution; ridiculously fearful

**SADIST** – a person who enjoys causing pain to others

**SCEPTIC** – a person who habitually doubts values or beliefs

**SINISTER** – evil; wicked; dishonourable

**SOLITARY** – one who prefers to stay alone or in solitude

**STOIC** – a person indifferent to emotions, pain as well as pleasure

**SUAVE** – smoothly agreeable and courteous, sophisticated

**SUPERCILIOUS** – showing arrogant superiority; contemptuous of views and opinions of others

**SYCOPHANT** – a servile person who flatters someone in position or power for personal gain

**TYRO** – someone new to a field or activity

**VAPID** – a person without any sparkle, flavour; lacks intelligence or imagination

**VERSATILE** – competent in many areas

**VINDICTIVE** – revengeful; unwilling to forgive

**VIRAGO** – fierce, unpleasant woman who shouts a lot

**VIRTUOSO** – extremely skilled at something, especially playing an instrument or performing

**VIVACIOUS** – attractively energetic and enthusiastic

**VULGARIAN** – a vulgar person; crude; lacking taste; ostentatious

**WANTON** – a person indulging in every passion, lewd and lustful

**WORKAHOLIC** – someone with a compulsive need to work and finds it difficult not to work

## TYPES OF SPEAKERS

**BANAL** – boring, ordinary and not original

**COGENT** – powerful and persuasive; able to influence or convince

**GARRULOUS** – in the habit of talking a lot, usually about unimportant things

**GRANDILOQUENT** – deliberate use of complicated words in order to attract attention and admiration

**INARTICULATE** – unable to express feelings or ideas clearly

**LACONIC** – brief and to the point

**LOQUACIOUS** – too full of trivial talk

**TACITURN** – habitually reserved, speaking very little

**VERBOSE** – using more words than necessary

**VENTRILQUIST** – someone who speaks without moving lips to give the impression that the voice is coming from somewhere else

**VOLUBLE** – very fluent and rapid

**VOCIFEROUS** – offensively loud

## ADJECTIVES OF RELATION

*(There are many terms which refer to a state of relating to or pertaining to a certain thing or category of things. Instead of using a phrase such as "pertaining to buttercups", you can substitute the adjective "ranunculaceous". We have compiled some such terms below. We use many of these words every day without realizing that they are part of this larger category.)*

**ABECEDARIAN** – of, like or pertaining to the order of the alphabet; rudimentary

**AESTIVAL** – of, like or pertaining to summer

**AGRESTIC** – of the fields; rural; unpolished

**ALAR** – of, like or pertaining to the wing or shoulder

**ALVEOLATE** – of or like a honeycomb

**AURICULAR** – of, like or pertaining to the ear; spoken secretly

**AVUNCULAR** – like an uncle; of, like or pertaining to uncles

**BATHYSMAL** – of, like or pertaining to the depths of the ocean

**BIBITORY** – of, like or pertaining or pertaining to drinking

**BUCCAL** – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or cheek

**BUCOLIC** – of, like or pertaining to the tending of cattle; rustic; rural

**BURSAL** – of, like or pertaining to a state's revenues

**CARPAL** – of, like or pertaining to the wrist

**CHTHONIAN** – of, like or pertaining to the earth or the underworld

**CONNUBIAL** – of, like or pertaining to marriage

**CREPUSCULAR** – of, like or pertaining to twilight

**CRETACEOUS** – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour

**DISTAFF** – of, like or pertaining to the female branch of a family or women's work

**EDACIOUS** – voracious; gluttonous; pertaining to eating

**EPISTOLARY** – of, like or pertaining to letters

**FENESTRAL** – of, like or pertaining to windows

**FUNICULAR** – of, like or pertaining to a string or cable

**GALACTIC** – of, like or pertaining to or obtained from milk

**HERMENEUTIC** – of, like or pertaining to the interpretation of passages

**HIBERNAL** – of, like or pertaining to winter

**HISTRIONIC** – of, like or pertaining to the stage or actors

**HYPOTHECARY** – of, like or pertaining to mortgages

**INTERSTITIAL** – of, like or pertaining to the space between things

**LITTORAL** – of, like or pertaining to the shore of a body of water

**MAGISTRAL** – of, like or pertaining to a master or teacher

**MARMOREAL** – of or like marble

**MATINAL** – of, like or pertaining to the morning

**MAXILLARY** – of, like or pertaining to a jaw

**MERETRICIOUS** – of, like or pertaining to prostitution; superficially attractive but lacking value

**OCCIPITAL** – of, like or pertaining to the back of the head

**OLEIC** – of, like or pertaining to or derived from oil

**OSULAR** – of, like or pertaining to the mouth or to kissing

**PARIETAL** – of a wall or walls, especially anatomical walls

**PECUNIARY** – of, like or pertaining to money; consisting of money

**PLEBEIAN** – of the common people or vulgar classes

**PRANDIAL** – of, like or pertaining to dinner

**PROCEPHALIC** – of, like or pertaining to the front of the head

**PUERPERAL** – of, like or pertaining to childbirth

**PYRETIC** – of, pertaining to or for the cure of fevers

**RISIBLE** – laughable

**SARTORIAL** – of, like or pertaining to a tailor or tailored clothes

**SCIATIC** – of, like or pertaining to the hip

**SIDEREAL** – of, like or pertaining to the stars

**STOCHASTIC** – of, like or pertaining to a sequence of random events

**SULPHOROUS** – of, like or pertaining to hellfire; infernal; blasphemous

**SUPERCILIARY** – of, on or near the eyebrow

**TECTONIC** – of, like or pertaining to building; structural

**TERPSICHOREAN** – of, like or pertaining to dancing

**UMBILICAL** – of, like or pertaining to the navel; related on the mother's side

**UXORIAL** – of, like or pertaining to a wife

**VACCINE** – of, like or pertaining to cows; preparation conferring immunity to disease

**VALETUDINARIAN** – of, like or pertaining to ill-health; anxious about health

**VERNAL** – of, like or pertaining to spring

**VISCERAL** – of the organs of the body

**VOLITIVE** – of, like or pertaining to the will

## BEARING AND CARRYING

*The following table is a relatively complete listing of words relating to the bearing, exuding, carrying, emitting, or containing of things by other things. Note that almost all of them end in "ferous" or "gerous" (from the Latin ferre and gerere, both meaning 'to bear').*

**ALIGEROUS** – winged

**AURIFEROUS** – bearing gold

**BELLIFEROUS** – bringing war

**BRACHIFEROUS** – bearing or having branches or arms

**BRANCHIFEROUS** – having or bearing gills

**CALCIFEROUS** – bearing lime

**CARBONIFEROUS** – bearing carbon

**CARNIFEROUS** – bearing flesh; fleshy

**CLAVIGEROUS** – keeping keys

**CONCHIFEROUS** – bearing a shell

**CONIFEROUS** – bearing cones

**CRUCIFEROUS** – bearing a cross

**DIAMANTIFEROUS** – bearing diamonds

**FLORIFEROUS** – bearing flowers

**FRIGIFEROUS** – bearing or bringing cold

**FRUCTIFEROUS** – bearing fruit

**FRUGIFEROUS** – bearing fruit

**LUCIFEROUS** – light-bringing; light-giving

**MORTIFEROUS** – death-bringing; fatal

**ODORIFEROUS** – emitting a usually pleasant smell

**SACCHARIFEROUS** – bearing sugar

**SACCIFEROUS** – bearing a sac or sacs

**TOXIFEROUS** – producing or bearing poison

**VASIFEROUS** – bearing a vessel or vas

## CARRIAGES AND CHARIOTS

*Each of the vehicles listed here is wheeled and non-motorized – a carriage, chariot, cart, buggy or similar thing. In general, this means that they will be horse-drawn (or donkey-drawn, or ... well, you get the picture). A number of these terms are foreign.*

**BROUGHAM** – one-horse closed carriage

**CABRIOLET** – two-wheeled carriage

**CHAISE** – light open carriage for one or two people

**CHARABANC** – open tourist coach with benches

**COUPE** – four-wheeled closed horse-drawn carriage

**DOGCART** – light two-wheeled carriage with seats back-to-back

**DROSKHY** – low four-wheeled open carriage

**EKKA** – small one-horse carriage

**GHARRY** – box-like Middle Eastern horse-drawn cab

**GIG** – light two-wheeled one-horse carriage

**HACKNEY** – four-wheeled two-horse carriage

**HANSOM** – light two-wheeled cab

**LANDAU** – horse-drawn carriage with folding top

**PHAETON** – open four-wheeled carriage

**SULKY** – light two-wheeled, one-person horse-drawn carriage

**TANDEM** – two-seated carriage with horses harnessed in series

**TONGA** – light two-wheeled carriage

**TRAP** – light one-horse carriage with springs

**TROIKA** – carriage drawn by three horses

**TUM-TUM** – dog-cart

**VICTORIA** – light open two-seated four-wheeled carriage

**WAGONETTE** – carriage with one crosswise seat in front, two seats in back

## CAUSATION AND FORMATION

*These words refer to causation, formation, origination, production, growth, development or generation. While this might seem like a pretty broad category, all of the words in the list derive from the single Greek word genesis, which can have all of the above meanings. Of course, Genesis is also the name of the first book of the Bible, in which the causation, origin and development of the world is described.*

**ABIOTENESIS** – spontaneous generation of living matter  
**ALLERGENIC** – producing allergies  
**ANTHROPOGENESIS** – origin of human beings  
**CARCINOGENESIS** – causing cancer  
**COSMOGENIC** – produced by interaction of cosmic rays with earth's surface  
**CRYPTOGENIC** – of unknown origin  
**CYTOGENESIS** – formation of cells  
**EMBRYOGENESIS** – production of an embryo  
**ENDOGENOUS** – having no external cause  
**ETHNOGENY** – study of origins of races or ethnic groups  
**EXOGENOUS** – having an external origin  
**HAEMATOGENESIS** – production of blood  
**HALLUCINOGENIC** – causing hallucinations  
**HETEROGENESIS** – spontaneous or alternate generation  
**HYPOALLERGENIC** – causing few allergies  
**IATROGENIC** – induced inadvertently by medical treatment  
**IMMUNOGENIC** – producing an immune response  
**LACTOGENIC** – producing milk  
**MEROGENESIS** – segmentation  
**MYOGENIC** – having a muscular origin  
**NONPATHOGENIC** – not causing disease  
**NOOGENESIS** – evolution of the mind  
**ONTOGENESIS** – origin and development of a single individual organism  
**OOGENESIS** – production of eggs or ova  
**PHYTOGENESIS** – origin and development of plants  
**PROTOGENIC** – formed at the beginning  
**PSYCHOGENESIS** – origin and development of the mind  
**RADIOGENIC** – produced by radioactive disintegration  
**SCHIZOGENESIS** – reproduction by division  
**SOLIGENOUS** – produced by the sun  
**THAUMATOGENY** – doctrine of the miraculous origin of life  
**VIRIDIGENOUS** – producing greenness  
**XYLOGENOUS** – growing on wood

## COLOUR TERMS

*This list contains definitions of obscure colour terms using combinations of 'normal' colours of the rainbow and descriptive adjectives; e.g. cardinal = deep scarlet red; russet = reddish brown.*

**ATROUS** – jet black  
**AUBERGINE** – eggplant; a dark purple colour  
**AZURE** – light or sky blue; the heraldic colour blue  
**BEIGE** – light creamy white-brown  
**BURNET** – dark brown; dark woollen cloth  
**CARDINAL** – deep scarlet red colour  
**CELESTE** – sky blue  
**CERULEAN** – sky-blue; dark blue; sea-green  
**CHARTREUSE** – yellow-green colour  
**CINNABAR** – red crystalline mercuric sulfide pigment; deep red or scarlet colour  
**CITRINE** – dark greenish-yellow  
**CLARET** – dark red-purple colour; a dark-red wine  
**CRETACEOUS** – of or resembling chalk; of a whitish colour  
**FLAVESCENT** – yellowish or turning yellow  
**HELIOTROPE** – purplish hue; purplish-flowered plant; ancient sundial; signalling mirror  
**HOARY** – pale silver-grey colour; grey with age  
**INDIGO** – deep blue-violet colour; a blue-violet dye  
**JACINTHE** – orange colour  
**KHAKI** – light brown or tan  
**LURID** – red-yellow; yellow-brown  
**MAGENTA** – reddish purple  
**MAROON** – brownish crimson  
**MAUVE** – light bluish purple  
**OCHRE** – yellowish or yellow-brown colour  
**PERIWINKLE** – a bluish or azure colour; a plant with bluish flowers  
**PRIMROSE** – pale yellow  
**PUCE** – brownish-purple; purplish-pink  
**RUSSET** – reddish brown  
**SABLE** – black; dark; of a black colour in heraldry  
**SAFFRON** – orange-yellow  
**SAGE** – grey-green colour  
**SANGUINEOUS** – bloody; of, like or pertaining to blood; blood-red  
**SAPPHIRE** – deep pure blue  
**SEPIA** – fine brown  
**SLATE** – dull dark blue-grey  
**SORREL** – reddish-brown; light chestnut  
**SUEDE** – light beige  
**SULPHUREOUS** – bright yellow  
**TAN** – tawny brown

**TAWNY** – brownish-yellow  
**TEAL** – greenish-blue  
**TERRACOTTA** – reddish-brown  
**TITIAN** – red-gold or reddish-brown  
**TOPAZ** – dark yellow  
**TURQUOISE** – blue-green  
**ULTRAMARINE** – deep blue  
**UMBER** – brownish red  
**VERMILION** – bright red  
**VIRIDIAN** – chrome green  
**WHEY** – off-white

## DANCE STYLES

*This list of dances won't actually turn you into a master of the ballroom, but it may help you recognize and understand the differences between certain dances. It's rather difficult to define a complex dance in one line, and so we've avoided a lot of detail about specific steps, etc.*

**BOLERO** – Spanish dance with sudden pauses and sharp turns  
**BOSSA-NOVA** – Brazilian dance similar to samba  
**CANCAN** – French woman's dance involving high kicks while holding up front of skirt  
**CHA-CHA** – fast rhythmic ballroom dance  
**CHARLESTON** – fast-paced 1920s dance characterized by energetic kicking  
**COTILLION** – elaborate ballroom dance with frequent changes of partner  
**FANDANGO** – lively Spanish dance performed by a couple  
**FLAMENCO** – vigorous rhythmic dance originating with Gypsies  
**FOX-TROT** – slow and complex ballroom dance  
**HABANERA** – slow and seductive Cuban dance  
**HULA** – sinuous Polynesian dance with rhythmic hip movements  
**HUSTLE** – lively disco dance derived from swing elements with a plus-like pattern  
**JIG** – springy and sprightly dance  
**JITTERBUG** – jazz dance featuring vigorous acrobatic feats  
**JIVE** – fast dance done to jazz or swing music  
**LIMBO** – dance of the West Indies where dancers pass under horizontal pole  
**MAMBO** – Cuban ballroom dance resembling the rumba or cha-cha  
**MAZURKA** – Polish folk dance in moderate triple measure  
**PASSACAGLIA** – slow solemn Italian or Spanish dance  
**POLKA** – lively Bohemian dance for a couple  
**QUADRILLE** – square dance for four couples  
**REEL** – lively dance of the Scottish Highlands  
**ROUND** – dance in a ring  
**RUMBA** – Cuban ballroom dance with pronounced hip movements  
**SALSA** – fast Latin American jazz-influenced dance  
**SAMBA** – Brazilian dance of African origin

**SHIMMY** – jazz dance featuring rapid shaking of the body  
**SHUFFLE** – dance featuring sliding or scraping of the feet  
**STOMP** – jazz dance featuring heavy stamping of the feet  
**TANGO** – Latin-American (orig. Argentinian) ballroom dance with long pauses  
**TARANTELLA** – fast violent Italian folk dance  
**TWIST** – dance featuring many gyrations of the hips  
**WALTZ** – ballroom dance in 3/4 time  
**ZOUK** – Caribbean disco dance and corresponding type of fast rhythmic music

## FABRIC AND CLOTH

*This rather odd category, lists the different kinds of fabric and cloth. There is an enormous variety in fabrics, with many different national, historical and regional varieties. It is interesting to note, however, that almost all of the types of fabric listed below are variants or blends of just five basic fabric types viz. silk, cotton, linen, wool and worsted.*

**ALPACA** – fine wool made from alpaca hair  
**ANGORA** – silk-like fabric made from wool of angora goats  
**BAIZE** – coarse napped cotton or wool fabric  
**BROADCLOTH** – dense twilled wool or worsted fabric  
**BROCADE** – rich silk fabric with raised patterns  
**BURLAP** – coarse plain-woven jute or hemp fabric  
**CALICO** – plain white cotton  
**CAMBRIC** – fine thin white cotton or linen fabric  
**CASHMERE** – soft twilled fabric made of fine goat's wool  
**CHAMBRAY** – lightweight fabric with coloured warp and white filling  
**CHAMOIS** – cotton fabric made in imitation of chamois leather  
**CHIFFON** – sheer silk fabric  
**CHINO** – strong twilled cotton cloth  
**CHINTZ** – glazed printed cotton fabric  
**CORDUROY** – durable cotton piled fabric with vertical ribs  
**CREPE** – light crinkled fabric  
**DAMASK** – fine lustrous fabric with flat patterns and a satin weave  
**DENIM** – firm and durable twilled cotton  
**DRILL** – durable twilled cotton  
**DUFFEL** – fabric of thick, low-quality woollen cloth  
**DUNGAREE** – heavy coarse durable twilled cotton, usually coloured  
**FLANNEL** – light woollen fabric  
**GABARDINE** – closely woven cotton or wool twill  
**GEORGETTE** – thin silk  
**GINGHAM** – striped cotton cloth  
**HERRINGBONE** – twilled fabric woven in rows of parallel sloping lines  
**JACQUARD** – intricately-woven variegated fabric; loom for making jacquard

**JERSEY** – plain weft-knitted fabric of wool, cotton, nylon or silk  
**KALAMKARI** – fabric coloured by repeated dyeing  
**KHADDAR** – homespun cotton cloth  
**MACKINTOSH** – lightweight rubberized waterproof cotton  
**MADRAS** – fine plain-woven cotton or silk  
**MERINO** – soft wool of the merino sheep; any soft merino-like wool or wool and cotton cloth  
**MOHAIR** – fabric made from silky hair of angora goats  
**MOLESKIN** – heavy durable cotton  
**MUSLIN** – plain-woven fine cotton  
**ORGANDIE** – fine translucent cotton  
**ORGANZA** – transparent thin silk or nylon  
**PAISLEY** – soft wool fabric with ornamental pattern  
**PASHMINA** – fine goat's wool fabric used for making shawls  
**PIQUÉ** – stiff durable corded fabric of cotton, rayon or silk  
**POPLIN** – corded woven silk and worsted  
**ROMAL** – handkerchief or headcloth; silk or cotton fabric  
**SATIN** – closely woven silk with lustrous face  
**SEERSUCKER** – light puckered cotton or linen fabric  
**SERGE** – strong twilled worsted  
**SHETLAND** – lightweight loosely twisted wool fabric  
**TAFFETA** – thin glossy silk  
**TULLE** – sheer and delicate thin silk  
**TWEED** – rough twilled wool  
**VELOUR** – piled velvety cotton  
**VELVET** – soft piled fabric of silk, cotton or synthetic material  
**VOILE** – soft fine sheer fabric  
**WOOLSEY** – cotton and wool blend  
**WORSTED** – fine closely-woven wool

## FIGHTING AND COMBAT

*These words, all very obscure, refer to fighting, combat or conflict, whether actual or metaphorical, using the suffix "machy" (from the Greek mache, a fight).*

**ALECTRYOMACHY** – cock-fighting  
**CYNARTOMACHY** – bear-baiting using dogs  
**DUOMACHY** – duel or fight between two people  
**GIGANTOMACHY** – war of giants against the gods  
**HIEROMACHY** – fight or quarrel between priests  
**HOPLOMACHY** – fighting while heavily armoured  
**ICONOMACHY** – opposition to the worship of images or icons  
**LOGOMACHY** – contention about words or in words  
**MONOMACHY** – single combat; a duel  
**NAUMACHY** – mock sea-battle  
**PNEUMATOMACHY** – denial of the divinity of the Holy Ghost  
**POETOMACHIA** – contest or quarrel among poets  
**PSYCHOMACHY** – conflict between the body and the soul

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**PYGMACHY** – boxing; fighting with clubs  
**PYROMACHY** – use of fire in combat  
**SKIAMACHY** – sham fight; shadow boxing  
**SYMMACHY** – fighting jointly against a common enemy  
**TAUROMACHY** – bullfighting  
**THEOMACHY** – war amongst or against the gods  
**TITANOMACHY** – war of the Titans against the gods

## KILLING AND KILLERS

*Anyone who has looked at the news lately knows that the human species seems to have an inordinate propensity for killing things. Similarly, anyone looking at this list of terms relating to killing will quickly realize that humans also have an inordinate propensity for making up words about killing things. All of these words end in 'cide', from Latin caedere, to kill. Of all of these, though, perhaps the greatest crime of all is verbicide, the brutal slaughter of our language by incompetents and ignoramuses. Will the atrocities never end?*

**ABORTICIDE** – killing of a foetus; abortion; foeticide  
**AMICIDE** – murder of a friend  
**BIOCIDE** – killing living material  
**DEICIDE** – destruction or killing of a god  
**ECOCIDE** – destruction of the environment  
**FILICIDE** – killing of one's own child  
**FRATRICIDE** – killing of one's brother  
**FUNGICIDE** – killing of fungus  
**GENOCIDE** – killing of a race or ethnic group  
**GERMICIDE** – substance that kills germs  
**GYNAECIDE** – killing of women  
**HERBICIDE** – killing of plants  
**HERETICIDE** – killing of heretics  
**HOMICIDE** – killing of a human being  
**INFANTICIDE** – killing of an infant  
**INSECTICIDE** – killing of insects  
**MARITICIDE** – killing or killer of one's husband  
**MATRICIDE** – killing of one's mother  
**PARASUICIDE** – harmful act appearing to be an attempt at suicide  
**PARRICIDE** – killing of parents or a parent-like close relative  
**PATRICIDE** – killing of one's father  
**REGICIDE** – killing of a monarch  
**SIBLICIDE** – killing or killer of a sibling  
**SORORICIDE** – killing of one's own sister  
**TAURICIDE** – killing or killer of a bull  
**TYRANNICIDE** – killing or killer of a tyrant  
**URBICIDE** – destruction of a city  
**UXORICIDE** – killing of one's own wife  
**VATICIDE** – killing or killer of a prophet  
**VERBICIDE** – destroying the meaning of a word  
**VERMICIDE** – killing of worms



# PHILOSOPHICAL ISMS

*Here is a list of different isms, each representing a philosophical, political or moral doctrine or a belief system.*

**ABSOLUTISM** – doctrine of government by a single absolute ruler; autocracy

**AESTHETICISM** – doctrine that beauty is central to other moral principles

**ANARCHISM** – doctrine that all governments should be abolished

**ANIMISM** – attribution of soul to inanimate objects

**ANTHROPOMORPHISM** – attribution of human qualities to non-human things

**ANTHROPOTHEISM** – belief that gods are only deified men

**ANTINOMIANISM** – doctrine of the rejection of moral law

**ASCETICISM** – doctrine that self-denial of the body permits spiritual enlightenment

**CAPITALISM** – doctrine that private ownership and free markets should govern economies

**COLLECTIVISM** – doctrine of communal control of means of production

**CONSERVATISM** – belief in maintaining political and social traditions

**DEISM** – belief in God but rejection of religion

**DUALISM** – doctrine that the universe is controlled by one good and one evil force

**EGALITARIANISM** – belief that humans ought to be equal in rights and privileges

**EGOISM** – doctrine that the pursuit of self-interest is the highest good

**EGOTHEISM** – identification of oneself with God

**EMPIRICISM** – doctrine that the experience of the senses is the only source of knowledge

**EXISTENTIALISM** – doctrine of individual human responsibility in an unfathomable universe

**EXPERIENTIALISM** – doctrine that knowledge comes from experience

**FATALISM** – doctrine that events are fixed and humans are powerless

**GEOCENTRISM** – belief that Earth is the centre of the universe

**GNOSTICISM** – belief that freedom derives solely from knowledge

**HEDONISM** – belief that pleasure is the highest good

**HISTORICISM** – belief that all phenomena are historically determined

**HUMANISM** – belief that human interests and mind are paramount

**HUMANITARIANISM** – doctrine that the highest moral obligation is to improve human welfare

**IDEALISM** – belief that our experiences of the world consist of ideas

**INTELLECTUALISM** – belief that all knowledge is derived from reason

**LIBERALISM** – doctrine of social change and tolerance

**LIBERTARIANISM** – doctrine that personal liberty is the highest value

**MATERIALISM** – belief that matter is the only extant substance

**MONISM** – belief that all things can be placed in one category

**MONOTHEISM** – belief in only one God

**NIHILISM** – denial of all reality; extreme scepticism

**OBJECTIVISM** – doctrine that all reality is objective

**OPTIMISM** – doctrine that we live in the best of all possible worlds

**PANTHEISM** – belief that the universe is God; belief in many gods

**PESSIMISM** – doctrine that the universe is essentially evil

**PLURALISM** – belief that reality consists of several kinds of entities

**POSITIVISM** – doctrine that that which is not observable is not knowable

**PRAGMATISM** – doctrine emphasizing practical value of philosophy

**PRIMITIVISM** – doctrine that a simple and natural life is morally best

**PYRRHONISM** – total or radical skepticism

**RACISM** – belief that race is the primary determinant of human capacities

**RATIONALISM** – belief that reason is the fundamental source of knowledge

**REALISM** – doctrine that objects of cognition are real

**REDUCTIONISM** – belief that complex phenomena are reducible to simple ones

**REPUBLICANISM** – belief that a republic is the best form of government

**ROMANTICISM** – belief in sentimental feeling in artistic expression

**SCIENTISM** – belief that the methods of science are universally applicable

**SELF-DETERMINISM** – doctrine that the actions of a self are determined by itself

**SKEPTICISM** – doctrine that true knowledge is always uncertain

**SOCIALISM** – doctrine of centralized state control of wealth and property

**SPIRITUALISM** – belief that nothing is real except the soul or spirit

**STOICISM** – belief in indifference to pleasure or pain

**SUBJECTIVISM** – doctrine that all knowledge is subjective

**THEISM** – belief in the existence of God without special revelation

**THEOCENTRISM** – belief that God is central fact of existence

**THEOPANTISM** – belief that God is the only reality

**TRANSCENDENTALISM** – theory that emphasizes that which transcends perception

**UTILITARIANISM** – belief that utility of actions determines moral value

## SCIENCES AND STUDIES

*This list defines sciences, arts and studies of various degrees of respectability and rarity, ranging from the common and esteemed to the obscure and quirky. Over the past century, the range and scope of scientific endeavours has expanded exponentially, so that practically any field of study has a name associated with it. Most of these terms end in 'ology', from the Greek logos, meaning 'word'.*

**ACOUSTICS** – science of sound

**AERODYNAMICS** – dynamics of gases; science of movement in a flow of air or gas

**AEROLOGY** – study of the atmosphere

**AERONAUTICS** – study of navigation through air or space

**AGROBIOLOGY** – study of plant nutrition; soil yields

**AGRONOMICS** – study of productivity of land

**ASTROLOGY** – study of influence of stars on people

**ASTRONOMY** – study of celestial bodies

**ASTROPHYSICS** – study of behaviour of interstellar matter

**AVIONICS** – the science of electronic devices for aircraft

**BIOMETRICS** – study of biological measurement

**BOTANY** – study of plants

**CACOGENICS** – study of racial degeneration

**CALORIFICS** – study of heat

**CARTOGRAPHY** – the science of making maps and globes

**CATECHETICS** – the art of teaching by question and answer

**CHALCOGRAPHY** – the art of engraving on copper or brass

**CHEMISTRY** – study of properties of substances

**CHIROGRAPHY** – study of handwriting or penmanship

**CHIROLOGY** – study of the hands

**CHIROPODY** – medical science of feet

**CRYOBIOLOGY** – study of life under cold conditions

**DACTYLOLOGY** – study of sign language

**DENDROLOGY** – study of trees

**DIAGRAPHICS** – art of making diagrams or drawings

**ENTOMOLOGY** – study of insects

**EPISTEMOLOGY** – study of grounds of knowledge

**ERGONOMICS** – study of people at work

**ETIOLOGY** – the science of causes; especially of disease

**ETYMOLOGY** – study of origin of words

**EUTHENICS** – science concerned with improving living conditions

**GASTRONOMY** – study of fine dining

**GEOPONICS** – study of agriculture

**HARMONICS** – study of musical acoustics

**HERALDRY** – study of coats of arms

**HOROGRAPHY** – art of constructing sundials or clocks

**HOROLOGY** – science of time measurement

**HYDROPATHY** – study of treating diseases with water

**ICHTHYOLOGY** – study of fish

**KINEMATICS** – study of motion

**KINESICS** – study of gestural communication

**KTENOLOGY** – science of putting people to death

**LIMNOLOGY** – study of bodies of fresh water

**MATHEMATICS** – study of magnitude, number, and forms

**METALLURGY** – study of alloying and treating metals

**METAPHYSICS** – study of principles of nature and thought

**METEOROLOGY** – study of weather

**METRICS** – study of versification

**METROLOGY** – science of weights and measures

**MORPHOLOGY** – study of forms and the development of structures

**OBSTETRICS** – study of midwifery

**OENOLOGY** – study of wines

**OPHTHALMOLOGY** – study of eye diseases

**OPTICS** – study of light

**OPTOMETRY** – science of examining the eyes

**ORTHOEPY** – study of correct pronunciation

**ORTHOGRAPHY** – study of spelling

**PAEDOTROPHY** – art of rearing children

**PATHOLOGY** – study of disease

**PHARMACOLOGY** – study of drugs

**PHILOSOPHY** – science of knowledge or wisdom

**PHYSIOLOGY** – study of processes of life

**PROXEMICS** – study of man's need for personal space

**PSEPHOLOGY** – study of election results and voting trends

**SEISMOLOGY** – study of earthquakes

**SEMIOTICS** – study of signs and symbols

**SOCIOLOGY** – study of society

**SPELEOLOGY** – study and exploration of caves

**SYNTAX** – study of sentence structure

**TAXIDERMY** – art of curing and stuffing animals

**TECTONICS** – science of structure of objects, buildings and landforms

**THEOLOGY** – study of religion; religious doctrine

**TOPOLOGY** – study of places and their natural features

**TOXOPHILY** – love of archery; archery; study of archery

**XYLOGRAPHY** – art of engraving on wood

**ZYMURGY** – branch of chemistry dealing with brewing and distilling

## STYLES OF SPEECH

*Here we have a list of words referring to manners or styles of speaking, words that use the suffix '-loquent', '-loquence', or '-loquy', from Latin loqui (to speak). While in an age of text-messaging, public speaking has lost its once-vaunted status as a communication medium, as long as people meet face to face, others will judge them on their manner of speech.*

**ALLOQUY** – speaking to another or many others; an address

**ALTILOQUENCE** – pompous or high speech

**AMBILOQUOUS** – using dubious or ambiguous expressions

**ANTELOQUY** – a preface

**ANTILOQUY** – speaking against some idea; contradicting or gainsaying

**BILOQUIST** – one capable of speaking with two distinct voices

**BLANDILOQUENCE** – complimentary speech; flattery

**BLESILOQUENT** – speaking with a stammer or lisp

**BREVILOQUENCE** – short-windedness; tendency towards brevity in speech

**COLLOQUY** – speaking together; mutual discourse

**DENTILOQUENT** – speaking with clenched teeth

**DIVERSILOQUENT** – speaking in different ways; speaking on different subjects

**DOCTILOQUENT** – speaking learnedly

**DULCILOQUENT** – speaking sweetly

**ELOQUENCE** – forceful and appealing speech

**FATILOQUENT** – speaking prophetically; declaring fate

**GRANDILOQUENT** – bombastic

**INANILOQUENT** – prone to foolish or empty babbling

**INELOQUENCE** – unappealing speech

**MENDACILOQUENCE** – lying speech

**OBLOQUY** – censure; calumny; slander; disgrace

**PARCILOQUY** – laconic speech

**PAUCILOQUENT** – of few words; speaking little

**POLYLOQUENT** – speaking much; loquacious

**SANCTILOQUENT** – speaking on heavenly or holy matters

**SOLILOQUY** – talking or conversing with oneself; dramatic production of this nature

**SOMNILOQUENCE** – talking in one's sleep

**STULTILOQUENCE** – foolish or senseless talk

**VENTRILOQUISM** – speaking so that the voice appears to come from elsewhere

**VERILOQUENT** – speaking truthfully; truthful

## WORDS OF WISDOM

*This group of 'sophy' and 'sopher' words has in common an etymological derivation from the Greek sophia, meaning 'wisdom'. They refer to an odd group of systems of knowledge, esoteric doctrines, and philosophical practices, most of which are obsolete or extremely rare, with philosophy being the only major exception. Not quite sciences or studies, nor are they isms, they tend to refer to mystical or occult concepts rather than strictly religious or scientific canons of knowledge.*

**ANTHROPOSOPHY** – knowledge of the nature of humanity; human wisdom

**CHIROSOLOGY** – knowledge of palm-reading

**COSMOSOPHY** – knowledge of the cosmos

**DEIPNOSOPHY** – learned dinner-conversation

**DEMONOSOPHER** – one who is inspired by a demon or devil

**GASTROSOPHER** – a person skilled in matters of eating

**HELICOSOPHY** – geometry that deals with spirals

**HYPNOSOPHY** – knowledge of phenomena relating to sleep

**MISOSOPHY** – hatred of knowledge or wisdom

**MOROSOPHY** – foolish pretence of wisdom

**MYSTERIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning secrets and mysteries

**NEUTROSOPHY** – study of the origin and nature of philosophical neutralities

**ONTOSOPHY** – knowledge of being or existence

**PALAEOSOPHY** – ancient learning or thought

**PANSOPHY** – universal knowledge

**PANTOSOPHY** – universal knowledge; pansophy

**PHILOSOPHY** – science of knowledge or wisdom

**PHYSIOPHILOSOPHY** – system of knowledge concerning principles of natural history

**PHYSIOSOPHY** – assumption of knowledge of nature

**PHYTOSOPHY** – knowledge of plants

**PNEUMATOPHILOSOPHY** – philosophy of spirits or the spirit world

**PSEUDOSOPHY** – pretension to wisdom

**PSILOSOPHY** – shallow philosophy; limited knowledge

**PSYCHOSOPHY** – doctrine or theory of the soul

**PYROSOPHY** – knowledge of the properties of fire

**RHABDOLOGY** – knowledge or learning concerning calculating rods

**SCIOSOPHY** – system of knowledge without basis in science

**THEANTHROPOSOPHY** – system of belief concerning Christ as god and man

**THEOSOPHY** – immediate divine illumination or wisdom

**ZOOSOPHY** – knowledge or learning concerning animals

## FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

*Each of the following words indicates a type of government by a certain kind of person or institution. Etymologically-minded folks should note the difference between the suffix 'archy', meaning 'rulership', and 'cracy', meaning 'power', which both come from Greek roots.*

**ACRACY** – government by none; anarchy  
**ALBOCRACY** – government by white people  
**ANDROCRACY** – government by men  
**ANTARCHY** – opposition to government; anarchy  
**ARGENTOCRACY** – government by money  
**ARISTARCHY** – government by the best  
**ARISTOCRACY** – government by the nobility  
**ARITHMOCRACY** – government by simple majority  
**AUTARCHY** – government by an absolute ruler  
**AUTOCRACY** – government by one individual  
**BUREAUCRACY** – government by civil servants  
**CHIROCRACY** – government by physical force  
**COSMARCHY** – rulership over the entire world, esp. by the devil  
**DEMARCHY** – government by the people; popular government  
**DEMOCRACY** – government by the people  
**ENDARCHY** – centralised government  
**EXARCHY** – government by bishops  
**GERONTOCRACY** – government by the aged  
**GYNARCHY** – government by women; gynocracy  
**HAGIOCRACY** – government by holy men  
**HIERARCHY** – government by a ranked body; government by priests  
**IATRARCHY** – government by physicians  
**IDIOCRACY** – personal rule; self-rule  
**KAKISTOCRACY** – government by the worst  
**KRITARCHY** – government by judges  
**MATRIARCHY** – government by women or mothers  
**MERITOCRACY** – government by the meritorious  
**MESOCRACY** – government by the middle classes  
**MOBOCRACY** – government by mobs or crowds; ochlocracy  
**MONARCHY** – government by one individual  
**OLIGARCHY** – government by the few  
**PANTARCHY** – government by all the people; world government  
**PATRIARCHY** – government by men or fathers  
**PLUTARCHY** – government by the wealthy; plutocracy  
**POPOCRACY** – government by populists  
**PSEPHOCRACY** – government resulting from election by ballot  
**STATOCRACY** – government by the state alone, without ecclesiastical influence  
**TECHNOCRACY** – government by technical experts  
**THEOCRACY** – government by priests or by religious law  
**XENOCRACY** – government by a body of foreigners

## NAMES FOR NAMES

*This short list defines some words relating to names. These words contain the root "nym", which comes from the Greek onoma, a name.*

**ACRONYM** – word formed from initial letters of another word  
**ALLONYM** – other person's name used by an author  
**ANANYM** – name written backward; often used as synonym  
**ANONYM** – person whose name is not given; pseudonym  
**ANTONYM** – word whose meaning is the opposite of a given word  
**APTRONYM** – name that suits its owner  
**AUTONYM** – a writer's real name; work published under writer's own name  
**CACONYM** – wrongly derived name  
**COHYPONYM** – word which is one of multiple hyponyms of another word  
**CRYPTONYM** – secret name  
**DIONYM** – name containing two parts or terms  
**EPONYM** – personal name from which another name is derived  
**EUONYM** – a pleasing or beautiful name  
**EUONYMOUS** – appropriately named  
**EUPHONYM** – euphonious synonym  
**EXONYM** – name for a town or country in a foreign language  
**HETERONYM** – word having same spelling but different sound and meaning  
**HOMONYM** – words having the same sound but different meanings  
**HYPERNYM** – word representing a class of words or things  
**HYPONYM** – term which is a member of a larger class  
**ISONYM** – word having the same derivation or form as another  
**MERONYM** – word whose relation to another is a part to the whole  
**METONYMY** – figurative use of word to name an attribute of its subject  
**METRONYMY** – system of naming after the mother's or female line  
**ONYMOUS** – bearing the author's name  
**PAEDONYMIC** – name taken from one's child  
**PARANYM** – euphemism; word whose meaning is altered to conceal evasion  
**PARONYM** – word from same root or having same sound as another  
**PATRONYM** – name derived from father's name  
**POECILONYM** – synonym  
**POLYONYM** – name consisting of several words  
**PSEUDONYM** – fictitious name used by an author  
**RETRONYM** – new name as modification of older term used alone  
**SYNONYM** – word whose meaning is the same as another word  
**TAUTONYM** – taxonomic name in which genus and species are the same  
**TEKNONYMY** – the naming of the parent from the child  
**TOPONYM** – place name derived from geographical feature  
**TRIONYM** – name consisting of three words

# Confusing words

Some words sound the same or "seem" to mean the same but are in effect very different. Here is a list of such confusing words. Know them well so that you can be on guard against misusing them.

- **ABLUTION** (washing the body as a religious rite) – *We usually pray after our morning ablutions.*  
**WASHING** (cleaning, bathing) – *She was washing her clothes.*
- **ABLE** (power or strength in general) – *He is able to run.*  
**CAPABLE** (power or strength in particular) – *He is capable of running for two hours continuously.*
- **ACCEPT** (receive, admit, approve) – *I accept your offer.*  
**EXCEPT** (prevent from being included, considered or accepted) – *Except you all members were present.*
- **ACCESS** (approach, reach, enter) – *I have no access to the minister.*  
**EXCESS** (too much) – *Excess of anything is bad.*
- **ACCESSARY** (a helper or associate, usually in a crime; this word may be spelt as "accessory" also) – *He was an accessary to the murder.*  
**ACCESSORY** (spare part, extra) – *Please also purchase the car's accessories from the same shop.*
- **ADMIT** (accept, allow entry or participation) – *1. I admit my mistake. 2. He was admitted to the college.*  
**CONFESS** (accept that one has done something wrong or bad) – *He refused to confess in spite of the overwhelming evidence of his crime.*
- **ADVICE** (noun) – *1. It is a good advice. 2. Avoid showering unwanted advice.*  
**ADVISE** (verb) – *1. It is good of you to advise me. 2. Do not advise someone unless he or she asks for it.*  
**INFORM** (verb -- to tell, communicate) – *I shall inform his parents if he goes to the cinema daily.*
- **AFFECT** (verb -- to influence, to induce) – *Your absence will affect your score.*  
**EFFECT** (noun -- consequence; verb -- to produce) *1. Your absence will have a bad effect on your score. 2. The citizens must act together to effect a change in the community's living conditions.*
- **AFFECTATION** (pretence, artificiality of manner, insincere behaviour) – *His words and deeds are so full of affectation that one is wary of trusting him at all.*  
**AFFECTION** (love, affinity, attachment) – *Every mother has great affection for her children.*
- **AFFLICT** (hurt, injure, pain, cause suffering) – *This infection afflicts men and women alike.*  
**INFLICT** (force someone to experience something unpleasant; impose) – *The suffering the epidemic inflicted on children was unimaginable.*
- **ALE** (beer) – *He needed some ale every day to stay in good spirits.*  
**AIL** (be ill, cause suffering) – *In spite of the tests, the doctors still cannot tell what ails him.*
- **ALTER** (change, transform) – *There will be a lot of confusion if you keep altering the schedule.*  
**ALTAR** (a place of offering) – *He sacrificed his personal interests at the altar of national progress.*
- **ALLUDE** (to hint at) – *In his speech he was alluding to the previous regime.*  
**ELUDE** (escape physically; escape understanding by; avoid fulfilling, answering or performing) – *1. The chase went on for long but in the end the thief managed to elude the police. 2. The professor provided many examples but the crux of the theory eluded us. 3. Her telephone number eluded me when I needed it the most and I managed to remember it just when I was dropping off to sleep.*
- **ALL TOGETHER** (all in one place) – *We are all together to celebrate this special occasion.*  
**ALTOGETHER** (wholly, entirely) – *He is altogether mistaken in his view.*
- **ALLUSION** (indirect reference) – *You can check up this allusion from the Indian mythology.*  
**ILLUSION** (a deceptive appearance) *The glamour of the skyscrapers is an illusion as it hides the poverty below.*  
**DELUSION** (a mistaken or unfounded opinion or idea; mistaken psychological belief in the face of evidence to the contrary) *1. His clothes create a delusion of grandeur. 2. I was labouring under the delusion that the company would honour the contract.*
- **ALUMNA/ALUMNAE** (female graduate/graduates)
- **ALUMNUS/ALUMNI** (male graduate/graduates)
- **ALREADY** (beforehand) – *1. I already know the result. 2. He is already in service.*  
**ALL READY** (completely prepared) – *I have the information all ready for you.*
- **ALL WAYS** (every direction, every road) – *All ways have been cleared for the minister's caravan.*  
**ALWAYS** (adverb) (at all times) *One must always keep a cool head.*
- **ALTERNATIVE** (choice, substitute, unusual) *1. There is no alternative to hard work. 2. He was quite famous for his work in alternative cinema but failed in commercial films.*  
**CHOICE** (act of choosing or selecting; something selected; of superior grade) – *1. She finally made the choice. 2. This is a choice collection of stamps.*  
**ALTERNATE** (every other) – *Business was brisk on alternate days.*

- **AMATEUR** (nonprofessional, dabbler) – *The company chairman is an amateur hockey player.*  
**PROFESSIONAL** (expert, veteran) – *India can't win the match unless the players show a professional attitude.*
- **AMIALE** (lovable, kind, benign) – *The workers liked the new supervisor because he was very amiable.*  
**AMICABLE** (friendly, harmonious) – *After a long discussion, they came to an amicable settlement.*  
**AMENABLE** (manageable, obedient, willing to comply) – *The trade union was fortunately amenable to the offer.*
- **AMEND** – *To improve*  
**EMEND** – (of a text) *remove errors, edit*
- **AMBIGUOUS** (vague, puzzling, cryptic, having more than one meaning) – *His rather ambiguous statements made it clear that he did not have a good grasp of the subject.*  
**EQUIVOCAL** (intentionally ambiguous or misleading) – *Politicians are notorious for their splendid equivocal statements!*
- **ANXIOUS** (sense of worry and suspense) – *I was anxious about my brother's welfare in the remote location.*  
**EAGER** (sense of joyful expectation) – *The participants were eager to know the names of the winners.*
- **APPRAISE** – *Estimate the value of*  
**APPRISE** – *To inform*
- **ARTIST** (someone who makes images or things that are beautiful or express feelings) – *Picasso was a famous artist.*  
**ARTISTE** (professional entertainer esp. singer, dancer or actor) – *The artistes presented a folk dance.*
- **ASCENT** (upward climb) – *The ascent in this company's hierarchy is a tiring job indeed.*  
**ASSENT** (to agree) – *He has finally given his assent to the imposition of President's rule in the state.*
- **AUTARCHY** – *Despotism*  
**AUTARKY** – *Economic Self-Sufficiency*
- **AVOCATION** (hobby) – *His avocation is playing chess.*  
**VOCATION** (occupation, employment) – *Trading in fine textiles is his vocation.*
- **BACKWARD** (not progressing; in reverse order, in the reverse direction) – 1. *The child is rather backward for her age.* 2. *The train moved backward, startling the passenger who was trying to get in.*  
**BACKWARDS** (in reverse order, opposite to facing or usual direction) – *He walked backwards from Mumbai to Pune.*
- **BAIL** (security) – *There is no fear of law simply due to the ease with which a bail can be obtained.*  
**BALE** (bundle) – *This is the only bale of cotton which was not destroyed by the fire.*
- **BALL** (solid or hollow sphere used in games) – *This is the best cricket ball ever made.*  
**BALL** (formal social gathering where people dance) – *Many people were invited to the ball aboard the luxury liner.*  
**BAWL** (cry loudly) – *The minister bawled at the officer when he repeatedly failed to do the job.*
- **BALMY** – *Fragrant, Aromatic, Sweet Smelling*  
**BARMY** – *Crazy, Insane, Lunatic*
- **BATTLE** (open clash between two opposing groups or two units of opposing armies; fight against a situation that needs to change) – *The battle against AIDS is no longer limited to one or two nations.*  
**WAR** (armed fighting between two or more groups or nations) – *Today the world cannot afford World War III.*
- **BENEFICIAL** (useful, rewarding) – *The expert guidance of the coach will undoubtedly prove beneficial.*  
**BENEFICENT** (kind, benign; doing or producing good) – *His was a beneficent regime when even the poorest felt the country cared for them.*
- **BESIDE** (adjacent, nearby) – *The secretary was sitting beside the chairman.*  
**BESIDES** (also, further, as well as) – *The library stocked microfilms and cassettes besides books.*
- **BIANNUAL** (happening twice a year; not necessarily once every six months) – *The magazine is published biannually.*  
**BIENNIAL** (happening once in two years) – *The biennial marathon was so popular that there was a demand to hold it every quarter.*  
**SEMIANNUAL** (occurring every six months) – *The school board has decided to conduct semiannual examinations from the next academic year.*
- **BLUNDER** (a serious, embarrassing mistake) – *He committed a blunder by mistaking the chief guest's wife to be an old classmate.*  
**ERROR** (defect, lapse, mistake) – *The accountant located an error in the journal.*
- **BREACH** (a break, violation) – *Your act constitutes a breach of faith.*  
**BREECH** (back part of a rifle or gun barrel where bullets can be loaded) – *Breech-loading guns were preferred to muzzle-loading guns.*
- **BRIDAL** (connected with marriage; designed for a bride) – *The bridal ceremonies in India are very elaborate.*  
**BRIDLE** (limit, curb; headgear of horse designed to give rider control) – *Your unbridled passions and indulgences will ruin you.*
- **BRIEF** (short, concise; usually used with reference to time and not distance) – *He gave a very brief lecture.*  
**SHORT** (applies to duration and distance both) – 1. *It's a short distance.* 2. *He was on a short tour to London.*

- **BRING** (get while moving towards the speaker) – *Please bring me that book when you come here.*  
**FETCH** (to go and get a thing or a person) – *My mother asked me to fetch my sister from her dancing class.*  
**TAKE** (to carry away from speaker) – *I will take the book to him when I go to his office.*
  
- **BROACH** (to open; to bring up) – *Rather than risk an argument, he preferred not to broach the subject.*  
**BROOCH** (small decorative pin worn by women; also spelt as broach) – *Avoid wearing the brooch when you travel.*
  
- **BRUSQUE** (blunt, abrupt, impudent) – *Your brusque manner is not likely to win you many friends.*  
**BURLESQUE** (satire, mockery) – *The burlesque won some applause but did not go down well with the government.*
  
- **CADDIE** – *a person who carries your golf clubs*  
**CADDY** – *a container for Tea*
  
- **CAN** (to be able to) – *I can drive your car.*  
**MAY** (suggesting possibility; seeking or giving permission; expressing a wish or hope) – *1. I may drive your car. 2. May I drive your car? 3. May you have a nice drive.*
  
- **CANAL** (man-made waterway mainly for inland navigation or irrigation) – *The Suez Canal provides the fastest crossing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.*  
**CHANNEL** (stretch of water joining two seas) – *The English Channel links the North Sea with the Atlantic Ocean, connecting Britain and France.*
  
- **CANNON** (a big gun) – *This place is famous for the cannons discovered in the archaeological survey.*  
**CANON** (rule or body of rules) – *This is the fundamental canon of morality and we must observe it.*
  
- **CANVASS** (to solicit, propagate, seek support for) – *Political canvassing is getting louder these days.*  
**CANVAS** (heavy closely woven fabric) – *Once he started working on the canvas, he was lost to the world.*
  
- **CALENDAR** (almanac, itinerary) – *According to the calendar, your birthday falls on a Sunday.*  
**CALENDER** (a pressing machine) – *We manufacture calenders for the textile industry.*
  
- **CARELESS** (negligent, indifferent, opposite of careful) – *He is very careless in his studies.*  
**CAREFREE** (without worry, gay) – *He led a carefree life till his first heart attack.*
  
- **CARGO** (goods carried as freight by sea, road or air) – *Cargo piled up at the ports as the workers went on strike.*  
**SHIPMENT** (goods shipped together as part of the same cargo) – *The terrorists had sent the deadly shipment concealed in a cargo of plastic goods.*
  
- **CAST** (actors in a play; throw) – *This film has a very interesting cast.*  
**CASTE** (a social class separated by distinctions of rank, profession or wealth) – *The caste system in India is indeed irrational.*
  
- **CATHOLIC** (means Roman Catholic, when used with a capital C) – *Peter is a devout Catholic who never misses church.*  
**CATHOLIC** (means liberal or comprehensive, used with a small c) – *He has a catholic taste.*
  
- **CEASE** (stop, terminate, perish) – *The office ceased to function after his demise.*  
**SEIZE** (to take possession of) – *A huge cache of arms was seized from the dacoit.*  
**SIEGE** (blockade of any place by the armed forces) – *The army organised a siege to flush out every terrorist from the area.*
  
- **CENSER** – *container for incense (agarbatti)*  
**CENSOR** – *to examine books, films etc before public release*  
**CENSURE** – *to disapprove*
  
- **CESSATION** (break, standstill, end) – *There appears to be no chance of any cessation in the civil war in Somalia.*  
**CESSION** (giving up or yielding) – *The cession of part of the land was expected to end the family dispute.*
  
- **CHILDISH** (immature, foolish, infantile) – *She thought others found her childish behaviour charming.*  
**CHILDLIKE** (innocent, cute) – *Her childlike joy at seeing every gift of nature was very charming.*
  
- **CHORD** (a combination of notes that blend together harmoniously when sounded together; a straight line connecting two points on a curve) – *He waited for her to come, idly striking mournful chords on his guitar.*  
**CORD** (a thin rope, a thick strong string) – *The cords of the Venetian blinds were in a tangle, making it impossible to open the blinds.*
  
- **COARSE** (rough, crude) – *The coarse manner in which they greeted us left a bad feeling in our hearts.*  
**COURSE** (line of action) – *The government must immediately decide on the course of action of reforms.*
  
- **COMPLACENT** (contented, self-satisfied, smug) – *Complacency is the first indication of imminent downfall.*  
**COMPLAISANT** (amiable, cheerfully obliging, eager to please) – *An excessively complaisant attitude reeks of sycophancy.*
  
- **COMPLIMENT** (praise; commendation) – *The Principal complimented her for her achievement in the national sports meet.*  
**COMPLEMENT** (match; completing part; a quantity of people or things that is considered complete) – *1. One's actions should complement one's words. 2. The enemy had no option but to surrender when faced with the full complement of our mighty warships and lethal submarines.*  
**COMPLIMENTARY** (commending, flattering) – *His complimentary remarks fell on deaf ears as she missed the presence of her father at the function.*  
**COMPLEMENTARY** (something that completes; making a pair or whole; dependant, ancillary; either of two angles that together make a right angle) – *His wife sarcastically complimented him for finally managing to find two complementary socks.*

- **CONFIDANT** (a trusted person who you share secrets with) – *All of us feel the need for a confidant at times.*  
**CONFIDENT** (assured, positive) – *Regular practice will give you the much required confidence to face the final examination.*
- **CONSCIOUS** (aware, cognizant) – *Be conscious of your duties if you wish to succeed.*  
**CONSCIENTIOUS** (ethical, moral, virtuous) – *A conscientious attitude may not always be very practical.*  
**AWARE** (alert, attentive, knowledgeable) – *He was aware of the dangerously rising rate of inflation.*
- **CONSEQUENT** (happening as a result of something) – *We are careless about disposing our waste and the consequent damage is killing our rivers.*  
**SUBSEQUENT** (happening after something) – *Fortunately, the bridge collapsed subsequent to our departure.*
- **CONTINUAL** (frequent, recurring) – *The continual occurrence of riots has made the administration jittery.*  
**CONTINUOUS** (endless, perpetual) – *His continuous aerobics performance for 50 hours made him famous.*
- **CORPORAL** (pertaining to the body) *Corporal punishment is not a healthy way to discipline children.*  
**CORPOREAL** (physical and not spiritual; of the body) – *We cannot expect ghosts to have a corporeal existence.*
- **CORPS** – a body of people  
**CORPSE** – a dead body  
**COPSE** – a group of trees
- **COUNCIL** (assembly) – *An emergency meeting of the council was called.*  
**COUNSEL** (advice) – *He gave me good counsel though it did not appeal to me at first.*  
**CONSUL** (government official looking after country's interests and people in a foreign land) – *Mr. Peter was the British consul in Sri Lanka.*
- **CYGNET** – a young swan  
**SIGNET** – a seal; often set in a ring
- **DEDUCE** (infer, derive, conclude) – *I was able to deduce from her actions that she was a spy.*  
**DEDUCT** (diminish, reduce) – *We plan to deduct 10 percent of your salary as your contribution to the earthquake relief fund.*
- **DEFERENCE** (respect, reverence) – *No matter how good you are, you must always show deference to your seniors.*  
**DIFFERENCE** (distinction, contrast) – *The difference between these two brands is very minor.*
- **DEFY** (challenge, disregard, challenge) – *He was punished for defying the traffic rules.*  
**DEIFY** (to worship as a deity) – *Today's youth have a tendency to deify the wrong kind of heroes.*
- **DENOMINATE** (to give a name) – *Mahatma Gandhi was denominated the "Father of the nation."*  
**NOMINATE** (to put forward for election to a position or appoint) – *He was nominated by the President.*
- **DENT** (depression, groove, indentation) – *Her haste in opening the door before the car could stop caused a dent in the door of the car.*  
**DINT** (by means of) – *He succeeded by dint of sheer hard work.*
- **DEVICE** (machine, gadget; a clever or deceptive manoeuvre) – *Curbing the money supply to the economy is a device to tame inflation.*  
**DEVISE** (formulate, engineer) – *The party has devised a wonderful plan to grab more votes.*
- **DELUSION** (false belief, hallucination) – *He lives under the delusion that someone is out to murder him.*  
**DELUSIVE** (deceptive, raising false hopes) – *For once, the minister's delusive assurances failed to pacify the people.*
- **DEPRECATE** (condemn, disparage) – *There is no need to deprecate the much-needed exit policy.*  
**DEPRECIATE** (devalue, belittle, abase) – *A depreciated rupee helps to boost Indian exports.*
- **DIALECT** (a local variation of a language) – *His dialect gives away his origin.*  
**DIALOGUE** (words spoken by characters in a book, movie or play; formal conversation between two or more people; formal discussion) – *1. The movie had very sharp dialogues. 2. The dialogue was deadlocked as both parties refused to budge.*
- **DISCOMFIT** (to make somebody unsettled or confused; frustrate someone's plans) – *The teacher was discomfited by the student's bold response.*  
**DISCOMFORT** (physical uneasiness; embarrassment) – *The breakdown of the airconditioner resulted in great discomfort.*
- **DISEASE** (illness) – *Casteism is indeed the biggest disease afflicting India.*  
**DECEASE** (death; die) – *The sudden decease of the leader created a vacuum in the country's leadership.*
- **DISINTERESTED** (impartial; free from bias or self-interest) – *The teacher should assess the students in a disinterested manner.*  
**UNINTERESTED** (indifferent; not showing interest) – *He seems uninterested in his work.*
- **DISSENT** (differ, disagree) – *The voice of dissent often has a significant message to convey.*  
**DESCENT** (decline; ancestry; downward movement) – *1. The descent in the morals of the leadership spells doom for us. 2. He is of royal descent.*
- **DINGHY** – a small boat  
**DINGY** – dirty, grimy, in a poor condition



- **DISCLOSE** (reveal, uncover) – *Under sustained interrogation, the prisoner broke down and disclosed the names of his masters.*  
**EXPOSE** (unmask, uncover, unshroud) – *The prisoner's statement helped to expose the dark deeds of the high and mighty.*
- **DISCREET** (tactful, careful, secretive) – *We must be very discreet while talking to him.*  
**DISCRETE** (distinct, separate) – *The company was divided into three discrete divisions.*
- **DUAL** (with or combining two parts) – *Under the new scheme of things, he now plays the dual role of chairman and chief executive.*  
**DUEL** (in olden times, a formal fight between two persons using guns or swords; difficult competition between two sides) – *The two leaders are locked in a duel for the prime city seat in the assembly election.*
- **ECONOMIC** – (related to economics) *The economic condition of India is very bad.*  
**ECONOMICAL** – (using minimum of time or resources for effective results) *With the price of cooking gas rising every month, it is important to work out the most economical way to cook food.*
- **EFFLUENT** (flowing outward; water mixed with waste matter) – *Without proper effluent management, the environment will soon be unable to support life.*  
**AFFLUENT** (rich, wealthy) – *Ancient India was an affluent nation.*
- **ELAPSE** (pass by) – *Many months elapsed before the government responded to the petition.*  
**LAPSE** (break or interval; momentary fault or failure in morality or behaviour; drop to a lower level; failure to exercise right in time) – *1. His momentary lapse of concentration resulted in a terrible accident. 2. He forgot to pay the premia and as a result, the life insurance policy lapsed.*
- **ELEMENTAL** (being or resembling a force of nature; ultimate; relating to severe atmospheric conditions; fundamental; simplified) – *The artist's classic elemental sculptures were on display at the exhibition.*  
**ELEMENTARY** (simple, rudimentary, basic) – *The manager took them to the village market to learn the elementary principles of marketing.*
- **ELICIT** (draw, activate, induce) – *He was able to elicit a reaction from the normally quiet official.*  
**ILLICIT** (illegal, felonious) – *The illicit trade in ivory has caused the death of thousands of elephants.*
- **ELIGIBLE** (qualified, acceptable) – *MBAs from reputed institutes are eligible to apply for the post.*  
**ILLEGIBLE** (incomprehensible) – *Illegible handwriting is a major source of irritation for typists.*
- **ELUSIVE** (difficult to describe, find, achieve or remember; skilful at avoiding capture; slippery, intangible) – *Though two elite police groups were after him, the notorious sandalwood smuggler remained elusive.*  
**ILLUSIVE** (imaginary, misleading, deceptive) – *The forecasts were rosy but any improvement in job opportunities remained illusive.*
- **EMIGRANT** (one who leaves one's country to settle in a foreign country) – *Unfortunately, that country treats emigrants as second class citizens.*  
**IMMIGRANT** (one who comes from a foreign country to settle in) – *He blended in so well that none could tell he was an immigrant from Canada.*
- **EMPTY** (something from which everything has been removed; containing nothing) – *The box was empty.*  
**VACANT** (means an unoccupied room, seat etc.) – *The building has four vacant flats.*
- **ENORMITY** (extreme wickedness) – *He has not realised the enormity of his crime.*  
**ENORMOUSNESS** (largeness of size or amount) – *The villager stood gaping at the enormousness of the shopping mall.*
- **EQUABLE** (consistent, reliable, steady) – *His equable temper helped him to lead the tense negotiations efficiently.*  
**EQUITABLE** (just, fair, honest) – *Indian socialism aims at an equitable distribution of wealth.*
- **ESPECIALLY** (particularly, specifically) – *She enjoys watching movies, especially with her friends.*  
**SPECIALLY** (preferentially) – *The PM specially requested him to attend the meeting.*
- **EXIGENT** (demanding immediate attention) – *This money will help you meet your exigent needs.*  
**EXIGUOUS** (scanty; small) – *The exiguous rainfall this year may create problems for the nation.*
- **EXPECT** (to hope for; anticipate) – *The teacher expects sincerity of his students.*  
**EXCEPT** (excluding) – *The students possess everything except sincerity.*
- **EXTENT** (size, degree) – *The extent of damage due to the earthquake is not yet known.*  
**EXTEND** (open out into space; increase size; continue for specific duration) – *1. The metropolis now extends several kilometers in all directions, except the west. 2. The talks extended over the weekend.*  
**EXTANT** (still existing) – *The file of the 1960 murder case is extant.*  
**EXTINCT** (no longer existing) – *Dinosaurs are hopefully extinct by now, though the movie tries to convince us otherwise.*
- **EXTRACT** (take out) – *The government is determined to extract money from those who evade tax.*  
**EXTRICATE** (free with difficulty; pull out) – *The poor villager was unable to extricate himself from the moneylender's contract.*
- **EXTRADITION** (delivering of criminals by one country to another) – *Malaysia refused to extradite the war criminal unless the trial was held in a neutral country.*  
**EXPATRIATE** (someone who has moved abroad; someone without a citizenship) – *The US has expatriated several terrorists after the bombing.*

- **FAILING** (weakness, fault) – *Great men tend to forgive the human failings in others.*  
**FAILURE** (lack of success) – *He has been a failure all through his career.*
- **FAIN** (gladly, eagerly) – *Fain would I visit him if he invites me.*  
**FEIGN** (to pretend) – *Some animals often feign death to confuse or distract a predator.*
- **FAINT** (suddenly lose consciousness; barely perceptible; lacking clarity or strength) – *1. The student fainted on receiving the examination booklet. 2. Her voice was very faint in the storm. 3. I have only a faint recollection of being here before.*  
**FEINT** (a distracting or deceptive manoeuvre) – *The attacker feinted and managed to fool the goalkeeper into moving the wrong way.*  
**FEIGN** (to pretend) – *The student feigned confidence on receiving the examination booklet.*
- **FAMOUS** (well-known positively) – *Inspector Zende became famous after he caught the criminal Charles Shobhraj.*  
**NOTORIOUS** (well-known negatively, infamous) – *Inspector Zende caught the notorious criminal Charles Shobhraj at a restaurant in Goa.*
- **FARTHER** (to a greater distance) – *The hotel was farther from the station than she expected.*  
**FURTHER** (to a greater degree or more advanced stage) – *I will discuss this no further.*
- **FAUN** – *a rural god or deity*  
**FAWN** – *a young deer OR to flatter*
- **FINAL** (last, conclusive) – *Is this your final decision ?*  
**FINALE** (conclusion, end) – *The car rally is the grand finale of the carnival.*
- **FORBEAR** (refrain from) – *The relatives were warned to forbear from divulging the terrible news to the seriously injured co-passenger.*  
**FOREBEAR** (ancestor, forerunner) – *You live easy because your forebears worked very hard.*
- **FORCEFUL** (full of force) – *He has a forceful personality.*  
**FORCIBLE** (by force) – *The police had to make a forcible entry into the shrine.*
- **FORMALLY** (seriously, officially) – *You must behave formally before the chief guest.*  
**FORMERLY** (in the past) – *Myanmar was formerly known as Burma.*
- **FORTUITOUS** (accidental, by chance) – *He met the President fortuitously.*  
**FORTUNATE** (lucky, auspicious) – *You are fortunate to have such caring parents.*
- **FOUL** (dirty, putrid) – *Any team can win if it resorts to foul play.*  
**FOWL** (a bird used to produce meat or eggs) – *This is a fast-breeding variety of fowls.*
- **FUNERAL** (macabre, depressing, ghastly; suitable for a funeral) – *The entire atmosphere at the gathering was funereal.*  
**FUNERAL** (burial, cremation) – *The funeral ceremony of the man was conducted in the public garden amidst his beloved flowers.*
- **GENIAL** (friendly and pleasant) – *His secretary is always genial.*  
**CONGENIAL** (compatible) – *He found that the new office offered a very congenial atmosphere to work in.*
- **GEEZER** – *Old man (slang)*  
**GEYSER** – *a hot spring or a bathroom water heater*
- **GHOSTLY** (related to ghosts) – *I was frightened by the ghostly atmosphere of the palace.*  
**GHASTLY** (shocking, horrible; indicative of death) – *The badly maintained heritage hotel looked ghastly.*
- **GLANCE** (a brief quick look at something) – *I glanced at the officer checking the luggage.*  
**GLIMPSE** (a brief, short sight of something) – *I could just catch a glimpse of the person before the car moved away.*
- **GODLY** (pious; holy) – *Great saints lead a godly life.*  
**GODLIKE** (befitting a God; having the nature of God) – *His disciples believed that he had godlike powers.*
- **GOURMET** – *a connoisseur of food*  
**GOURMAND** – *Greedy*
- **GRACEFUL** (showing elegance, beauty and smoothness of form or movement) – *He is a graceful person.*  
**ELEGANT** (showing sophistication and good taste in appearance and behaviour; pleasingly neat, simple or concise) – *The hotel room was very elegant and designed right for the busy executive.*
- **GRISLY** – *horrible*  
**GRIZZLY** – *a type of bear*
- **GUARANTEE** – (used as a verb and a noun -- written assurance or pledge; give surety or make certain of) *1. There is no guarantee that they are speaking the truth. 2. The government cannot guarantee safe passage to the hijackers.*  
**GUARANTY** – (correct only as a noun -- security for a formal promise; someone who promises responsibility for someone else's debts or obligations) – *He offered guaranty for the borrower.*
- **HARE** (an animal like a large rabbit) – *The hare was hunted down by the pack of dogs.*  
**HEIR** (successor) – *The king, unfortunately, had no worthy heir.*
- **HAIL** (small hard balls of ice falling from the sky like rain; call someone) – *1. The fierce hailstorm destroyed the whole crop. 2. It is best to hail a taxi.*  
**HALE** (in good health) – *The soldiers who made it to the Antarctic are quite hale and hearty.*

- **HEAR** (perceive sound without any special effort) – *I can hear the noise coming from the opposite room.*  
**LISTEN** (to make a special effort to hear something) – *The students listened attentively.*
- **HONORARY** (serving without pay) – *He is an honorary surgeon at the hospital.*  
**HONOURABLE** (worthy of honour) – *He is an honourable member of the community.*
- **HOARD** – *to store, accumulate*  
**HORDE** – *a tribe or a group*
- **HOME** (a place where one lives and is happy) – *He has a cosy little home.*  
**HOUSE** (a structure to live in with no emotional involvement as such) – *He has a big house full of beautiful furniture.*
- **HUMAN** (pertaining to man) – *It is but human to err.*  
**HUMANE** (kind, benevolent) – *Our society needs to adopt a more humane approach to those living with AIDS.*
- **HUNG** (suspended or supported from above) – *I hung the towel on the clothesline.*  
**HANGED** (to put to death by suspending by the neck) – *The convict was hanged at dawn.*
- **IDEAL** (perfect) – *The ideal solution to the Kashmir problem is yet to be found.*  
**IDOL** (object of worship) – *Their religion does not encourage idol worship.*
- **IMAGINARY** (fictitious, opposed to real) – *Don't let the imaginary ghosts under your bed steal your sleep.*  
**IMAGINATIVE** (full of imagination, skilled at thinking originally) – *Isaac Asimov was an imaginative writer.*
- **IMMANENT** – Inherent, by birth  
**IMMINENT** – impending, in the near future  
**EMINENT** – Important, respected
- **IMMORAL** (corrupt, evil, having no morality) – *Going by the current trend, an immoral politician is no longer a surprise.*  
**AMORAL** (without moral standards) – *It would appear that politics have sunk to new amoral levels.*
- **IMPUDENT** (rude, disrespectful) – *The impudent student asked the teacher his age during a lecture.*  
**IMPRUDENT** (unwise) – *The imprudent utilisation of the nation's resources has left us underdeveloped.*
- **INDIGENOUS** (native; originating in a particular region) – *The Agni missile is indigenously developed.*  
**INGENUOUS** (gullible; innocent) – *An ingenuous customer is likely to be defrauded.*  
**INGENIOUS** (clever, inventive) – *It was an ingenious solution to the vexing problem.*  
**INDIGENT** (poor) – *In India many people are so indigent that they cannot manage a square meal.*
- **INTELLIGENT** (talented, clever) – *The intelligent student always wins.*  
**INTELLIGIBLE** (understandable) – *His message was not intelligible because there was too much noise in the background.*
- **JOURNEY** (travel by any mode) – *We had an exciting bus journey.*  
**VOYAGE** (used for journey by sea) – *The voyage of Columbus was a turning point in history.*
- **JUDICIAL** (related to a judge or to the law) – *This is a judicial matter and should be left to experts.*  
**JUDICIOUS** (wise, prudent, right judgment) – *Think hard and then take a judicious decision about your investment.*
- **LAMA** – a Buddhist Monk  
**LLAMA** – a South American Animal
- **LESS** (refers to uncountable quantity) – *Her new apartment has less floor space and fewer windows.*  
**FEWER** (refers to countable number) – *Fewer industrial accidents occurred this year than the last.*
- **LIGHTENING** (reducing, alleviating) – *He is lightening the burden by providing some monthly allowance.*  
**LIGHTNING** (flash of light in the sky) – *The lightning lit up the night sky like it was noon.*  
**LIGHTING** (illumination) – *The lighting at the marriage party was impressive.*
- **LOVABLE** (worthy of love) – *Some may not find a pug very lovely but she is definitely a lovable dog.*  
**LOVELY** (beautiful) – *Her behaviour was as lovely as her looks.*
- **LICENCE** (noun -- freedom, liberty, legal document granting permission) – *Never drive without your licence.*  
**LICENSE** (verb -- permit) – *Your post does not license you to behave in this high-handed manner.*
- **LOATHE** (verb -- hate) – *He loathes studying.*  
**LOATH** (adj. -- unwilling) – *She was loath to donate the money.*
- **LOOSE** (not fixed; not tight; relaxed; turn free) – *He let the horse free in the field.*  
**LOSE** (to stop possessing) – *You'll lose a golden career opportunity if you don't apply now.*
- **LUMBAR** – *the lower back of the human body*  
**LUMBER (N)** – wood, timber  
**LUMBER (V)** – to walk slowly and heavily
- **LUXURIANT** (abundant) – *The luxuriant growth of plants has given a fine look to the garden.*  
**LUXURIOUS** (giving great pleasure; very comfortable and expensive) – *His luxurious life has made him a little complacent.*

- **MANNEQUIN** – *A dressmaker's model / to display garments*  
**MANIKIN** – a dwarf
- **MATERIAL** (noun -- commercial term for goods of any kind; fabric; information; something used to make things; someone suitable) – *1. He does not appear to be executive material. 2. Her dress was made of some new synthetic material. 3. The material must be delivered before 12 noon on Friday.*  
**MATERIEL** – (supplies, weapons and equipment of a military force) – *The men were ready to defend the city but were handicapped by a severe shortage of materiel.*
- **MEAN** (adj -- very bad, stingy) – *The mean neighbour posed problems for all.*  
**MEAN** (noun -- the average) – *The BSE Sensex is a weighted mean of 30 alpha scrips.*
- **MEMORABLE** (worth remembering) – *Unfortunately, there is no video record of Kapil Dev's memorable innings of 175.*  
**MEMORIAL** (statue, monument) – *The memorial in Hiroshima for those killed by the atomic bomb is a grim reminder of the perils of war and the need for global peace.*
- **MENDACITY** (lying) – *Politicians are often accused of mendacity.*  
**MENDICITY** (begging) – *We may be a developing nation but we refuse to lead a life of mendicity.*
- **MIGHT** (strength) – *The might of the G7 nations has often gone unchallenged.*  
**MITE** (fragment, bit) – *All citizens gave their mite to the earthquake relief fund.*
- **MOAT** – Ditch  
**MOTE** – a spot of dust
- **MOB** (disorderly group) – *The police had to teargas the unruly mob at Delhi.*  
**CROWD** (a big group) – *A big crowd had gathered to watch the match.*
- **MOMENTARY** (for a moment) – *Material pleasures are but momentary.*  
**MOMENTOUS** (important) – *A momentous decision was taken by the Congress Working Committee.*
- **MORAL** (adj -- ethical; noun -- significance of a story or event) – *The moral (noun) of the story is that a king must always be moral (adj) in his actions.*  
**MORALE** (feeling of confidence; spirit) – *The chief tried to boost their morale through aggressive gestures.*
- **OBDURATE** (stubborn) – *The obdurate state machinery does not make it very easy for investors to venture into new areas.*  
**OBJURGATE** (to scold) – *The judge objurgated the police officer for his failure to conduct the investigation in a proper manner.*
- **OFFICIAL** (related to an office) – *The minister pointed out that the pleasure trip was not made in his official capacity.*  
**OFFICIOUS** (meddlesome) – *The minister's officious attitude irked the members of his team.*
- **ORDINANCE** (rule of order) – *Presidential ordinances can be issued when parliament is not in session.*  
**ORDNANCE** (arms, cannon) – *The explosion at the ordnance factory was a matter of grave concern for the army.*  
**ORDONNANCE** – a systematic arrangement of objects
- **OSTENSIBLE** (claiming to be different from the real) – *The ostensible motivation was the urge to serve the poor but in reality he was only doing some arm-twisting to gain more favours from the high command.*  
**OSTENTATIOUS** (fond of display, exhibition, showy) – *He prefers to live in an ostentatious manner.*
- **PAEAN** – a song of praise  
**PAEON** – a metrical foot  
**PEON** – various sorts of worker
- **PAIN** (physical or mental suffering) – *The pain of a bodily injury may seem more bearable than the pain of separation.*  
**PANE** (a flat piece of glass) – *The window panes of the office were cleaned yesterday.*
- **PALATE** – roof of one's mouth  
**PALETTE** – a flat plate for mixing paints, used by artists  
**PALLET** – a platform or a mattress  
**PELLET** – a small capsule
- **PATROL** (guard, protect) – *The night patrol on the highway yielded good results and eliminated dacoity.*  
**PETROL** (refined crude oil) – *Petrol is no longer the preferred fuel, now that the new cars have superior diesel engines.*
- **PENURY** (abject poverty) – *Millions of Indians live and die in penury.*  
**PENURIOUS** (miserly, stingy) – *The rich man was very penurious.*
- **PEOPLE** (a general word referring to a collection of persons) – *Several people attended the function.*  
**A PEOPLE** (a nation or a race) – *The Germans are a self-respecting people.*  
**PEOPLES** (nations, races, tribes etc.) – *Peoples of the world must unite to fight terrorism.*
- **PERSECUTE** (harass, oppress) – *The opposition alleged that the government was trying to persecute the media for exposing its dark deeds.*  
**PROSECUTE** (bring a criminal action against) – *The government has warned that those who produce or market gutkha will be prosecuted.*
- **PERSONAL** (related to one person, individual) – *You should avoid interfering in somebody's personal matters.*  
**PERSONNEL** (persons employed in any service) – *The company personnel will definitely get a bonus.*
- **PERSPICACIOUS** (acutely insightful and wise) – *Today's urban consumer is much too perspicacious to fall for mere advertising gimmicks.*  
**PERSPICUOUS** (clearly understandable) – *Her perspicuous argument left no room for any doubt.*

- **PLAINTIFF** – *brings a case in court of law*  
**PLAINTIVE** – sad, mournful
  
- **POLITIC** (prudent, shrewd; smoothly agreeable and courteous) – *He was too politic to pick up a quarrel with the principal of the school.*  
**POLITICAL** (pertaining to government, of public affairs) – *He was yet another actor who hoped to shine in the political arena but failed miserably.*
  
- **POTABLE** (fit to drink) – *There is a shortage of potable water in our locality.*  
**PORTABLE** (not fixed; easily transported) – *Portable TV sets are a great hit with the urban crowd.*
  
- **PRACTICAL** (justifiable, pragmatic, realistic) – *Practical experience is a must for this post.*  
**PRACTICABLE** (implementable; usable for a specific purpose) – *Your suggestion is not very practicable.*
  
- **PRECEDE** (to go before) – *Minor quarrels always precede a war.*  
**PROCEED** (to advance) – *The army has proceeded deep into the enemy territory.*
  
- **PREMIER** (chief, head of state, first) – *The Premier of Pakistan has been invited to India to discuss matters.*  
**PREMIERE** (opening show) – *The world premiere of this movie is on Zee TV.*
  
- **PRESCRIBE** (to lay down authoritatively) – *The election commission has prescribed the code of conduct applicable to all government officials and candidates.*  
**PROSCRIBE** (to prohibit; forbid) – *The athlete was disqualified for using proscribed drugs.*
  
- **PRINCIPAL** (chief) – *The principal of the college has resigned following a prolonged strike by the students.*  
**PRINCIPLE** (codes) – *The principal was a man of principle and chose to resign rather than compromise.*
  
- **PROCEED** (go, continue) – *The vehicles were allowed to proceed after the boulders were cleared.*  
**PROCEEDS** (collections) – *The proceeds of the film show would go to the earthquake relief fund.*
  
- **PRESUMPTIVE** (having a reasonable basis for belief or acceptance) – *Presumptive evidence points to his involvement in the crime.*  
**PRESUMPTUOUS** (lacking respect for others; doing something without the right) – *It was rather presumptuous of the local film star to expect autograph seekers in a foreign country.*
  
- **PROPHECY** (noun -- prediction) – *The prophecies of Nostradamus are world famous.*  
**PROPHECY** (verb -- to predict) – *He prophesied that the government would fall within six months.*
  
- **QUITE** (perfectly, significantly) – *This was quite a balanced match.*  
**QUIET** (silent, inert, inactive) – *The government has been quiet over the GATT issue.*
  
- **RARE** (not common and very valuable; unusual) – *This is a rare stamp indeed.*  
**SCARCE** (in short supply; not easy to find) – *Clean water is becoming scarce.*
  
- **RATIONAL** (sane, logical) – *We need a rational approach to population control.*  
**RATIONALE** (logical basis) – *What is the rationale behind this plan?*
  
- **RECOLLECT** (recall knowledge from memory) – *I am unable to recollect his name.*  
**REMEMBER** (keep in mind for attention or consideration) – *I shall remember this evening for the rest of my life.*
  
- **RECOMMEND** (suggest some person or action for a job or purpose) – *He recommended Dr. Joshi for the surgery.*  
**REFER** (redirect to a person or place) – *The family doctor referred the patient to a specialist so that she could get some expert advice on her diet.*
  
- **RETRENCHMENT** (reduction in expenditure or number of employees) – *Workers are strongly opposing retrenchment in the public sector.*  
**RETRIBUTION** (punishment, reprisal) – *The retribution for his action was immediate.*
  
- **REVIEW** – *a survey or a report*  
**REVUE** – a musical show
  
- **RHYME** – *matching of sounds in verse*  
**RIME** – frost
  
- **RICH** (wealthy) – *He is a rich man.*  
**RICHES** (belongings, resources) – *India has limitless natural riches.*
  
- **RIGHT** (correct) – *There may be doubts and protests but economic liberalisation was the right path to take.*  
**RITE** (ceremony) – *Some religious rites in India are elaborate and time-consuming.*
  
- **RIGOROUS** (thorough, severe, unsparing) – *Commandoes have to undergo rigorous training.*  
**VIGOROUS** (energetic, strong, active) – *The students were put through some vigorous exercise routine by the new instructor.*
  
- **RING** (circular band, a circle) – *This is my marriage ring.*  
**WRING** (twist, squeeze) – *Wring the towel properly so that it does not drip.*
  
- **ROUTE** (path, itinerary) – *The minister's motorcade changed its route at the last moment.*  
**ROUT** (defeat, debacle) – *The opposition party had to face a total rout in the elections.*
  
- **SALON** (reception room; a shop where hairdressers and beauticians work) – *She made it a point to dash down to the salon before every meeting.*  
**SALOON** (bar, den, hangout) – *A meeting was convened in the hotel saloon.*

- **SANATORY** (curative) – *The vacation had a sanatory effect on her.*  
**SANITARY** (clean, hygienic; free from dirt and germs) – *Diseases thrive in poor sanitary conditions.*
- **SATIRE** – *make fun of, sarcasm*  
**SATYR** – *a woodland deity / god*
- **SCHOLAR** (intellectual, academician, guru) – *He is a distinguished scholar of ancient Indian history.*  
**PUPIL** (student, disciple, beginner) – *The pupils of the college were inspired by the scholarly director.*
- **SCULL** – *oar to row a boat*  
**SKULL** – *the bone of the head*
- **SENSUAL** (related to bodily desires; sexually exciting) – *He takes a sensual delight in eating.*  
**SENSUOUS** (appealing to senses) – *On the whole it was a very sensuous experience.*
- **SEPTIC** (infected by bacteria which produce pus) – *One of the wounds became septic, necessitating a course of strong antibacterials.*  
**SCEPTIC** (a person who always doubts) – *A sceptic may be prudent but not often popular.*
- **SHEAR** (trim, clip, shave, whittle) – *The shepherd is shearing a sheep.*  
**SHEER** (complete, absolute) – *He passed the examination by sheer determination and hard work.*
- **SIMULATE** (duplicate, imitate) – *Pilots are trained on machines that simulate flying conditions.*  
**STIMULATE** (rouse, excite) – *Hitler's speeches could stimulate the whole of Germany.*
- **SOCIAL** (living together in a group; liking companionship; fond of society) – *Man is by nature a social animal.*  
**SOCIABLE** (friendly and pleasant) – *Samir is a very sociable person.*
- **SPECIOUS** (plausible but false; illusive; untrue) – *Her arguments were quite specious but her fighting spirit was making an impression.*  
**SPACIOUS** (roomy, big, jumbo) – *The debate was held in a spacious hall.*
- **SPIRITUAL** (not material) – *Spiritual awakening must accompany intellectual development.*  
**SPIRITUOUS** (containing or of the nature of alcohol) – *The illegal spirituous preparation made hundreds of people blind.*
- **STALACTITE** (column of rock hanging from the roof of a cave)  
**STALAGMITE** – (column of rock rising from the floor of a cave) *Stalactites and stalagmites are found in limestone cave systems.*
- **STATIONARY** (motionless) – *The speeding goods train rammed into the stationary passenger train.*  
**STATIONERY** (writing material) – *We will not save much by cutting down on stationery.*
- **STATUE** (image, icon, idol) – *The arm of the statue was broken by the enraged mob.*  
**STATUTE** (law, canon, command) – *The statutes of civilisation demand decency and honesty.*
- **STORY** (narrative) – *Jeffrey Archer is one of the best storytellers of our times.*  
**STOREY** (a single floor or level of a multilevel building) – *The 25-storey building was the tallest in the suburb.*
- **STILE** – *steps, especially wooden*  
**STYLE** – *shape or manner*
- **STRAIT** (difficult situation; narrow channel of sea) – *He is in dire straits.*  
**STRAIGHT** (direct, traditional) – *The straight road to Mumbai will save you an hour but will cost you more in terms of toll charges.*
- **SUIT** (to fit) – *This proposal will suit the leaders, I am sure.*  
**SUITE** (a set of connected rooms) – *A suite was reserved for the Prime Minister in the best hotel in town.*
- **TEAM** (group) – *The Indian cricket team has been selected by the BCCI.*  
**TEEM** (abound, swarm) – *The valley teems with tourists during the summers.*
- **THRASH** (beat, batter, assail, attack) – *The boy was thrashed by his teacher for indiscipline.*  
**THRESH** (beat the grain out of ears or cobs) – *It is the time for farmers to carry out their threshing.*
- **TROOP** (a company of persons or animals moving together) – *The American troops suffered heavy losses in Vietnam.*  
**TROUPE** (a group of entertainers like circus, dances etc.) – *The world-famous circus troupe is in town.*
- **TORTUOUS** (spiral, twisting, winding) – *The accused gave some tortuous answers about the reason for his presence at the scene of the crime.*  
**TORTUROUS** (painful, distorting) – *The preparations required for passing MBA may appear torturous but the rewards make it all worthwhile.*
- **TURBID** (muddy, soiled, clouded) – *The water from the municipal taps is often turbid.*  
**TURGID** (inflated, pompous) – *The author's style is quite turgid and not particularly suited for humour.*
- **TYPEWRITER** (machine for printing, one character at a time) – *PCs have replaced typewriters in most offices.*  
**TYPIST** (a person who uses the typewriter) – *The skill of an experienced typist is still valuable when it comes to using a computer keyboard.*
- **UNHUMAN** (lacking in human characteristics) – *The creature from outer space had an unhuman form in the movie.*  
**INHUMAN** (cruel or without human feelings) – *The Nazis were very inhuman in their approach.*

- **ULTERIOR** (hidden, covert, secret) – *The inspector was sure that the thief had some ulterior motive when the latter announced his desire to mend his ways.*  
**ULTIMATE** (final, maximum, limiting, highest) – *Conquering the Everest remains the ultimate challenge for a mountaineer.*
- **UNQUESTIONED** (that which has not been questioned) – *The statement was accepted by both parties, unquestioned.*  
**UNQUESTIONABLE** (impossible or not open to question) – *His loyalty is unquestionable.*
- **URBAN** (belonging to the city or town) – *The migration of villagers to urban areas is alarming.*  
**URBANE** (refined, polished, cultured) – *Vinod is a very urbane person.*
- **UXORIOUS** (submissively fond of a wife) – *The villagers teased their newly married neighbour as being too uxorious.*  
**UXORICIDE** (wife killing) – *It was a shock when the person they took to be uxorious was taken away by the police for uxoricide.*
- **VACATION** (holidays) – *Never take a vacation long enough for your boss make other arrangements.*  
**VOCATION** (profession, occupation) – *One should choose one's vocation according to one's liking.*
- **VAIN** (useless, futile) – *He made a vain attempt to win the favour of others.*  
**VEIN** (blood vessel) – *The blood vessels carrying blood to the heart are called veins.*
- **VASSAL** (slave, pauper) – *The vassal was brought back to his native land after a long time.*  
**VESSEL** (utensil, bucket, boat or ship) – *Years ago he was taken away forcibly as a vassal; now he returned as the master of both his will and the vessel that brought him there.*
- **VENAL** (evil, corrupt, immoral) – *The venal acts of the officials caused great distress and led to the uprising.*  
**VENIAL** (excusable, pardonable) – *The punishment was too harsh for the child's venial mischief.*
- **VERACITY** (truthfulness) – *After his involvement in the scam, one tended to doubt the veracity of every statement he made.*  
**VORACITY** (extreme desire to eat) – *His voracity is beyond his own control now.*
- **VERBAL** (relating to words; expressed in spoken words) – *Verbal promises hold no value in law.*  
**VERBOSE** (wordy, talkative) – *His style is so verbose that he is unable to hold his reader's attention for long.*
- **VIRTUAL** (in effect though not in fact) – *The workers' union has virtually taken over the management.*  
**VIRTUOUS** (chaste, ethical) – *His virtuous nature will never allow him to indulge in such a crime.*
- **VISCOUS** (sticky, semi-fluid) – *Rubber is collected as a viscous fluid from the bark of a tree.*  
**VICIOUS** (cruel, evil-minded) – *The vicious motives of the dacoits were no secret.*
- **WAIL** (to cry bitterly) – *The widow's wails left all eyes moist.*  
**WAIN** (a large open wagon for hay) – *Bring in the wain from the other gate.*
- **WASTE** (useless) – *All your efforts are a waste if you do not appear for the examination.*  
**WAIST** (part of the human body between ribs and hips) – *A luxuriant waist is a sign of obesity.*
- **WAVE** (to signal to move) – *The policeman waved the vehicles on, hoping to clear the jam before it got worse.*  
**WAIVE** (to forego) – *The consulate agreed to waive visa formalities but the scientist refused to relent and cancelled his trip.*
- **WET** (containing water) – *It is not very healthy to stay in your wet clothes for too long.*  
**WHET** (to sharpen; make more acute) – *1. The smell of lunch getting ready was enough to whet my appetite. 2. You need to whet this blunt knife.*
- **WHITHER** (to what place) – *The elderly professor frequently exclaims, "Whither youth?"*  
**WITHER** (fade, shrivel) – *Age had withered his body but his mind was as sharp as ever.*
- **WILLING** (agreeable, compliant, amenable) – *He was willing to surrender his arms.*  
**WILFUL** (stubborn, perverse, dogmatic) – *The wilful acts of the company against a section of the employees are unpardonable.*
- **WOMANLY** (like a mature woman) – *She was quite womanly in handling the dispute and settled everyone down in no time.*  
**WOMANISH** (having a woman's characteristics, not considered desirable in a man, like weakness or fussiness) – *He was so womanish that men were uncomfortable to have him around.*
- **WREAK** (inflict, bring about) – *The new battle tank wreaked havoc on the enemy.*  
**REEK** (strong bad odour, show strong evidence of something unpleasant) – *Your plan reeks of treachery.*  
**WRECK** (destruction, fragments) – *The sudden storm made a wreck of our picnic plans and we ended up spending the day at home.*
- **WRITE-OFF** – *damage something irreparably*  
**RIGHT-OFF** – *immediately, without delay*
- **YOKE** (piece of wood placed on the neck of oxen) – *The yoke of bonded labour must be eliminated.*  
**YOLK** (yellow of an egg) – *The yolk of egg is very nutritious.*

# Idioms and phrases

An expression or phrase, often informal, that has a meaning of its own that is not apparent from the meanings of its individual words is an IDIOM. For example "round the bend" is an idiom which means "mad." Thus a knowledge of these idioms is important otherwise a key idea may be missed out in a passage etc.

The following pages contain a list of the most commonly encountered idioms and their meanings. Go through this seriously and do revise it thoroughly at least once before the test.

## "A"

**Abide by** – adhere to, conform to, agree to Ex. It is difficult to find citizens who abide by the law.

**Account for** – provide an explanation for Ex. He was called to account for his ridiculous behaviour.

**Above board** – honest, fair, frank, upright Ex. We must keep the whole affair above board.

**All agog** – in a state of excitement Ex. Learning of his CAT result, he was all agog.

**All and sundry** – everyone without exception Ex. This announcement concerns all and sundry.

**All intents and purposes** – practically, in actual practice Ex. There are slight differences between the two plans but to all intents and purposes they are the same.

**An axe to grind** – selfish motive Ex. I have no axe to grind; I just want to help you.

**Animal spirits** – natural cheerfulness born of good health Ex. His animal spirits are a sight to watch.

**Answer a purpose** – to serve a purpose Ex. Keep that bag – it may answer a purpose.

**Answer for** – take the responsibility for Ex. Who is going to answer for the mess our nation finds itself in ?

**Apple of discord** – cause of quarrel, a bone of contention Ex. Kavita's emerald ring proved to be an apple of discord.

**Apple of one's eye** – an object of love, the most valuable possession Ex. She is the apple of her father's eye.

**Apple pie order** – in perfect order Ex. Her desk is always in apple-pie order.

**Ask after** – inquire about one's condition or health Ex. She asked after his father.

**Ask for** – asked to be given, to run the risk of something negative Ex. By breaking his imported glasses, you have really asked for it now.

**Ask out** – invite to a function (or an outing or a party) Ex. He will definitely ask her out one day.

**At all events** – positively, without failure Ex. The FM assured the foreign investors that reforms would continue at all events.

**At all hazards** – in spite of risks Ex. The sailor decided to circumnavigate the globe at all hazards.

**At a loss** – to be puzzled Ex. The teacher was at a loss when quizzed intelligently.

**At a low ebb** – in a state of decline Ex. She was at a low ebb after the operation.

**At a pinch** – in a difficulty Ex. At a pinch, you could get home on foot.

**At a stone's throw** – very near Ex. They live only at a stone's throw from here.

**At a stretch** – continuously, without a break Ex. He can't work for more than three hours at a stretch.

**At an arm's length** – to keep aloof, to avoid, to keep at a distance Ex. She keeps her new neighbours at an arm's length.

**At any rate** – in any event, under any circumstances Ex. John told us that the Queen will come to see us at any rate.

**At home in** – to be strong, to be comfortable with a subject Ex. He was at home in Economics.

**At one's beck and call** – at one's disposal or command Ex. She always has plenty of men at her beck and call.

**At one's finger's tips or ends** – to be an expert at something Ex. He has the history of the firm at his finger tips.

**At par** – on level with, of a similar quality Ex. I enjoy cooking but my results are not at par with yours.

**At random** – aimlessly, without goals Ex. The police were stopping cars at random and checking their brakes.

**At sea** – weak, perplexed Ex. Can I help you ? You seem all at sea.

**At sixes and sevens** – in disorder, pell-mell Ex. One day before the wedding, the whole house was at sixes and sevens.

**At stake** – in danger Ex. (1) A great deal of money is at stake. (2) The peace of the country is at stake.

**At the bottom** – real cause Ex. You will definitely find his name at the bottom of all the scams.

**At the eleventh hour** – at a late stage, at the last moment Ex. The child was saved from the kidnappers at the eleventh hour.

**At the mercy of** – in the power of Ex. A sailor is at the mercy of the weather.

**At the outset** – right in the beginning Ex. It's always better to clarify the rules at the outset.

**At the risk of** – incurring danger Ex. I am advancing credit to you at the risk of my credibility.

**A.B.C.** – elementary facts Ex. This book gives you the ABC of engineering.

**To be at daggers drawn with** – to be enemies, to be on bad terms Ex. They've been at daggers drawn for years.

**To be at one's wit's end** – to be in a fix or confusion, to be perplexed Ex. "I am at my wit's end with this terribly complicated situation," said Mr Rao.

**To be at large** – to be free and not under any control Ex. The marauding hyena is still at large.

**To add fuel to the fire** – to increase anger Ex. Just as the discussion seemed to be becoming more rational Pratibha added fuel to the fire by saying that people should only talk about things they understand.

## "B"

**Back out** – to withdraw, to break a promise Ex. The govt. decided to back out of the project due to political pressures.

**Bad blood** – enmity, bad feelings Ex. There has been bad blood between the two nations for years.

**Bag and baggage** – completely, leaving behind nothing Ex. She threw him out of the house bag and baggage.

**Be off one's head** – to be mad, insane Ex. You must be off your head to go for a picnic on such a cold day.



**Bear a grudge** – to have bitter feelings towards someone Ex. She bears a grudge against her mother-in-law.

**Bear in mind** – remember Ex. Bear in mind that you'll have to save some money if you want a holiday.

**Bear up** – keep one's spirits under hostile conditions Ex. She's bearing up well after her shock.

**Bed of roses** – full of joys and pleasures Ex. Life is not a bed of roses.

**Bed of thorns** – full of sufferings Ex. Her life has become bed of thorns after her husband's death.

**Behind one's back** – in one's absence Ex. He sometimes bullies his sister behind his mother's back.

**Beside the mark** – irrelevant, not to the point Ex. His guess was rather beside the mark.

**Between the devil and the deep sea** – to be in a fix or between two difficulties Ex. Faced with a choice between starving to death and emigrating, they were between the devil and the deep sea.

**Big gun** – an important figure Ex. The manager appears to run his branch himself but all the important decisions are made by the big guns at the head office in Delhi.

**Bird's eye view** – a general view or study Ex. (1) From the top of the building he had a bird's eye view of the whole city. (2) The CEO had a bird's eye view of the MNCs operations.

**Black sheep** – a disgraceful person Ex. My brother has always been the black sheep of the family because he has been in prison several times.

**Blessing in disguise** – a certain thing which appears to be a curse in the beginning but proves to be a blessing in the end Ex. His death in the road accident was a blessing in disguise as he was slowly dying of cancer.

**Blow one's own trumpet** – to speak proudly of one's achievements Ex. He really isn't very clever but he is always blowing his own trumpet.

**Blow over** – to end, to extinguish/terminate Ex. The trouble will soon blow over.

**Blue blood** – noble blood, nobility of rank Ex. They may be poor but they have blue blood in their family.

**Boil down** – to reduce, to come down to the basic fact Ex. His speech was a long one but it boiled down to a warning that we would all have to work harder for less money.

**Bolt from the blue** – a sudden shock or calamity Ex. His resignation was a bolt from the blue.

**Bone of contention** – a cause of quarrel Ex. Who should inherit their uncle's estate was a bone of bone of contention for many years.

**Bread and butter** – livelihood Ex. Writing novels is my bread and butter.

**Break down** – mental or nervous collapse of a person Ex. He broke down after his father's death.

**Break in** – enter with the aim of stealing Ex. The thief broke in to find the house empty.

**Break out** – appear suddenly; escape from prison Ex. They decided to break out at mid-night.

**Bring up** – to rear the children; to start a topic for discussion Ex. Mr Das finally decided to bring up the question of poverty before the minister.

**Buckle under** – to accept under pressure, to give in Ex. Apparently, India has so far not buckled under threats over the CTBT issue.

**Burning question** – an important question or topic of the day Ex. The burning question in the office was who was to be the next manager.

**By far** – beyond all comparison Ex. This is the most lucrative public issue by far.

**By hook or by crook** – by all means, fair or foul Ex. I'll get her to marry me, by hook or by crook.

**By leaps and bounds** – rapidly, at a rapid pace Ex. Construction of the new sports complex is going ahead by leaps and bounds.

**By no means** – in no way Ex. I am by no means certain to win.

**By virtue of** – on account of Ex. By virtue of the position he held, he was able to move about freely.

**To bank upon** – to depend, to rely Ex. I am banking upon his help to run the disco.

**To be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth** – born in prosperous circumstances Ex. What does he know about hardship – he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

**To be in the good books** – to be in favour with Ex. The salesman has been in the manager's good books since he increased last year's sales.

**To be in the bad books** – to be in disfavour with Ex. Ever since he forgot about her birthday he has been in her bad books.

**To bear the brunt of** – to bear the consequences Ex. As he missed the sales target by a huge margin, he had to bear the brunt of the boss.

**To bear the palm** – to win reward Ex. You should not expect to bear the palm in case you fail.

**To beat about the bush** – to talk irrelevant Ex. Stop beating about the bush and tell me what you came for.

**To beat a retreat** – to retire, to move back Ex. The children beat a retreat when they saw the headmaster coming.

**To beat hollow** – to defeat completely Ex. The king was beaten hollow in the battle.

**To bell the cat** – to face a risk Ex. It was agreed that they must complain to the headmaster but the question remained of who was to bell the cat.

**To bid fair** – likely to be Ex. She is bidding fair to be as beautiful as her mother was.

**To bide one's time** – to wait for a favourable chance Ex. I am just biding my time until he makes a mistake.

**To break the ice** – to break the silence, to get over initial shyness Ex. Let's break the ice by inviting our new neighbours for a meal.

**To bring credit to** – to bring fame and honour Ex. Your son will bring credit to you.

**To bring down the house** – to win general praise Ex. At the school function, his impersonation of the headmaster brought the house down.

**To bring to book** – to punish the guilty Ex. The thieves were finally tracked down and brought to book.

**To burn one's fingers** – to get into trouble Ex. He got his fingers badly burned speculating in oil shares.

**To burn the candle at both ends** – to waste one's energy, time and money uselessly Ex. He went to late night parties and got up early at 4 to study – he was trying to burn the candle at both ends.

**To burn the mid-night oil** – to work very hard till late at night Ex. He got his MBA degree by burning the mid-night oil.

**To bury the hatchet** – to forget a quarrel, to make peace Ex. Finally, the two countries decided to bury the hatchet.

## "C"

**A cat's paw** – to make somebody a tool Ex. He was just a cat's paw in the bitter power struggle.

**A chicken-hearted person** – a cowardly person Ex. The IIM-CAT is definitely not for a chicken hearted person!

**A child's play** – something very easy Ex. Climbing that hill is child's play to the experienced mountaineer.

**A cock and bull story** – an imaginary or false story Ex. The tramp told a cock-and-bull story about finding the money hidden in a bottle behind a tree in the park.

- A cool head** – a calm judgment Ex. Those who can keep a cool head under adverse circumstances usually are the winners.
- A cry in the wilderness** – a useless cry Ex. The hostage's appeals were a cry in the wilderness.
- Call on** – to pay a visit Ex. The PM called on the ailing President.
- Capital punishment** – punishment of death Ex. The judge passed the verdict of capital punishment against him.
- Care about** – to feel for someone/something Ex. My neighbour cares a lot about me.
- Care for** – have respect or regard for someone Ex. She cares for her teacher.
- Cast down** – depressed, dejected Ex. The GD results made him feel cast down.
- Casting vote** – a vote which decides the issue when the voting is otherwise equal Ex. The President's casting vote is bound to create a frenzy.
- Close shave** – a narrow escape Ex. That was a close shave – that car nearly ran you over.
- Come of** – come from, descended from Ex. He has come of Austrian origins.
- Come off** – to be successful Ex. She has finally come off in life.
- Come round** – become conscious; to visit; adopt an opinion Ex. The accident victim came round in the hospital.
- Come to hand** – receive Ex. I was happy when my B.Sc. degree came to my hand.
- Count on** – to believe in, rely on Ex. Since last five days I have been counting on the courier services to deliver my parcel.
- Count out** – to disregard Ex. If you are planning to loot the bank, count me out.
- Crocodile tears** – false tears Ex. Most of the mourners at the leader's funeral shed crocodile tears.
- Cut and dried** – in a ready made form Ex. Her views on this topic are very cut and dried.
- To call a spade a spade** – to speak in plain terms, to speak out openly Ex. Many a times the doctors avoid to call a spade a spade.
- To call into question** – to object to Ex. The company's ability to survive has been called into question.
- To carry fire and sword** – to cause destruction Ex. The bandits at the Chambal always carry fire & sword.
- To call for** – to demand Ex. I have already called for the new books for our library.
- To carry off one's feet** – to be wild with excitement Ex. The CAT results carried him off his feet.
- To carry the day** – to win, to succeed Ex. John's arguments carried the day for us.
- To cast a slur upon** – to bring a blot, to bring discredit Ex. Mohan cast a slur on his parents by telling a lie.
- To cast a spell over** – fascinate or attract Ex. The beauty of Kashmir will surely cast a spell over you.
- To cast into the shade** – to throw into obscure position Ex. Ram's behaviour often casts his brother into the shade.
- To catch napping** – to take unawares Ex. The minister caught the staff napping during his surprise visit.
- To catch tartar** – to meet with a person who is more than a match for one Ex. Don't be proud of yourself, one day you will catch a tartar.
- To change colour** – to turn pale with fear Ex. He changed colour when he saw the woman whom he thought he had killed.
- To chew the cud** – to think deeply Ex. He sat chewing the cud for hours but never wrote anything down.
- To clinch the issue** – to decide the matter Ex. His arguments in the court finally clinched the issue.
- To come of age** – to be major, to be twenty one Ex. (1) My uncle will look after my inheritance until I come of age. (2) The player seems to have come of age.
- To come off with flying colours** – to succeed with credit Ex. He came off with flying colours in his MBA exams.
- To come to a head** – to reach a crisis Ex. Matters came to a head when the dismissed officer refused to hand over the charge to the newly appointed authority.
- To come to a stand-still** – to come to a stop Ex. Business comes to a stand-still during the load shedding.
- To come to grief** – to suffer, to be ruined, to fail Ex. The project came to grief.
- To compare notes** – to discuss impressions or opinions Ex. They decided to compare the notes in the annual general meeting.
- To cool one's heels** – to wait for somebody patiently Ex. Although I arrived on time for the meeting, I was left cooling my heels for half an hour.
- To cross one's mind** – to come into one's mind Ex. It did cross my mind that she might get lost but I never seriously thought she would.
- To cross swords** – to fight Ex. I try not to cross swords with my boss but he is the most unreasonable man.
- To cry for the moon** – to wish for something impossible Ex. She's crying for the moon by asking him to give up his claim to the property.
- To cry over spilt milk** – to waste time in vain, repent over lost opportunities Ex. You wouldn't have torn your skirt if you had opened the gate instead of trying to climb the fence but there's no point in crying over spilt milk.
- To curry favour** – to seek to win favour by gifts or flattery Ex. She wants a rise in her pay, so she is trying to curry favour with the boss.
- To cut a sorry figure** – to feel humbled, to make oneself ridiculous, to produce a poor result Ex. The 1996 annual meeting cut a sorry figure.
- To cut no ice** – to have no effect Ex. This sort of flattery cuts no ice with me.
- To cut the Gordian knot** – to get over a difficulty by a bold strike Ex. The PM tried to cut the Gordian knot by dissolving the state assembly.

## "D"

- A dead letter** – no longer in use Ex. The issue of wages has become a dead letter today.
- A deadlock** – a position in which no progress can be made Ex. The negotiations reached a deadlock.
- A dog in the manger** – a selfish policy Ex. He is a real dog in the manger – even though he doesn't have a car he won't let anyone else use his garage.
- A drawn game or battle** – in which no party wins Ex. The game of boxing was a drawn game.
- A drug in the market** – a thing unsaleable due to its lack of demand Ex. The magazine 'Surya' has become a drug in the market.
- Dark horse** – a competition of unknown capabilities Ex. We knew how three of the four competitors would perform but the fourth was a dark horse.
- Dead of night** – in the middle of Ex. No one will see us leaving if we go in the dead of night.
- Dead shot** – a marksman whose aim never goes wrong Ex. The captain was a dead shot.
- Deal in** – to trade in something, to be busy with something Ex. (1) Now a days he is dealing in shoes. (2) Dealing in rhino horns is illegal.
- Democle's sword** – an impending danger Ex. The confidential report being prepared by our boss is the Democle's sword hanging over our heads.
- Die down** – reduce to zero slowly, to diminish and finish Ex. The fire will die down before the fire-brigade comes.
- Die hard** – customs that require a long period to die out Ex. Only a die hard optimist is likely to make it to the IIMs.
- Dirt cheap** – very cheap Ex. She got that car dirt cheap.
- Do away with** – reject, get rid of Ex. They did away with uniforms at that school years ago.
- Do one proud** – to give cause for feeling proud Ex. We always do them proud when they come to dinner.
- Do up** – put in better condition Ex. The mechanic promised her that he will do up her car.
- Down and out** – completely beaten Ex. Zimbabwe, considered down and out, staged a marvellous comeback.
- Draw in** – to pull into something Ex. The octopus will draw in its tentacles if disturbed.
- Dress down** – to scold, censure, rebuke Ex. His teacher gave him a dressing down for not doing his home-work.
- Dutch courage** – fictitious courage induced somehow Ex. He needs some Dutch courage before asking her to marry him.
- To be dashed to the ground** – to fail Ex. Even after the long efforts to clear his exams, his hopes were dashed to the ground.
- To dance attendance upon** – to wait on somebody always Ex. She expects everyone to dance attendance upon her.
- To dance to one's tune** – to carry out orders Ex. She makes everyone in the office dance to her tune.
- To decline with thanks** – to refuse or neglect Ex. He declined his boss' offer to go to U.S.A with thanks.
- To die in harness** – to die while working till death Ex. Jawaharlal Nehru died in harness due to the Chinese attack.
- To do full justice** – to have one's fill, to do a thing thoroughly Ex. She did full justice to the painting she was doing.
- To drive home** – to lay emphasis on, to make something very clear Ex. The manager drove home the need for everyone to try to save the firm's money.

## "E"

- At the eleventh hour** – at the last moment Ex. Most jobs get done at the eleventh hour.
- Eat into** – to destroy Ex. The fire ate into the whole colony.
- Eat one out of house and home** – to eat in a gluttonous manner Ex. His wife's huge dog is eating him out of house and home.
- Eat one's heart out** – to worry excessively Ex. He ate his heart out at the bash.
- Eat one's words** – to take back one's words Ex. I'll make him eat his words !
- Eat out of one's hand** – give no trouble Ex. The strict administrator had the employees eating out of his hand.
- Enough and to spare** – in plenty Ex. Mr Das had made enough and to spare in his daughter's wedding.
- Every inch** – completely Ex. He is every inch a noble man.
- Eye for eye** – tit for tat Ex. She wants him to lose his job as he made her lose hers – she believes in the principle of an eye for an eye.
- Eye wash** – means of deceit Ex. The incentive is an eye wash – the real interest rate is too high.
- To eat humble pie** – to offer an humble apology Ex. You'll have to eat humble pie if he is proved right in the court.
- To eat one's words** – to go back on one's promise, to back out Ex. Financial contingencies forced him to eat his own words.
- To egg on** – to keep urging regarding something Ex. He egged on his friend to steal the radio.
- To end in smoke** – to come to nothing Ex. All her dreams ended in smoke.
- To extend the hand of friendship** – to express a desire for friendship Ex. It is apparently impossible for Pakistan to extend a hand of friendship towards India.

## "F"

- A fair hand** – a beautiful and clear hand Ex. The boss in on the lookout for a fair hand for his toymaking unit.
- A fair weather friend** – a selfish friend Ex. As soon as he found himself in trouble over money, all his fairweather friends deserted him.
- A fatal disease** – a disease that ends in death Ex. AIDS is a fatal disease.
- A far cry** – a long way or distance Ex. This job is a far cry from the last one I had.
- A feather in one's cap** – another achievement to be proud of Ex. That prize he won was a feather in his cap.
- A fish out of water** – to be in an uncomfortable position Ex. The middle-aged woman felt like a fish out of water at her daughter's party.
- A flying visit** – a hasty and brief visit Ex. The Prime Minister gave a flying visit to the plane mishap site.
- A fool's paradise** – state of joy based on false hopes Ex. People who think the population situation will improve shortly are living in a fool's paradise.
- By fits and starts** – irregularly Ex. He did his work by fits and starts.
- Face to face** – personally Ex. They finally met face to face to discuss the problem.
- Fair play** – impartial treatment Ex. He's not involved in the contest – he's only here to see fair play.
- Fall flat** – collapse, flop, fail to generate interest Ex. His attempt at humour fell flat.

# "G"

**Fall foul of** – to incur the disfavour of Ex. He fell foul of his boss by not doing the routine office work.

**Fall over one another** – to try and do something before others Ex. Both the accountants tried to fall over one another in order to influence the Manager.

**Fall over oneself** – to be extremely enthusiastic to do something Ex. As soon as the film star appeared in the restaurant, all the waiters fell over themselves to see that she had everything she wanted.

**Fed up** – to be tired of, to be sick of Ex. I am fed up with all this work !

**Few and far between** – few and rare Ex. Instances of bavery in public life and few and far between.

**First and foremost** – important Ex. First and foremost we must thank you for your help.

**Flesh and blood** – human nature Ex. Savagery cannot be tolerated by flesh and blood.

**Fly at** – attack Ex. The minister flew at the staffers.

**Fly in the face of discretion** – foolishly take a course that is not logical Ex. By resigning from the job now, you will be flying in the face of discretion.

**Fly off at a tangent** – to start discussing something totally irrelevant Ex. It is difficult to have a sensible conversation with her, as she heeps flying off at a tangent.

**For good** – for ever Ex. He is not going to France for a holiday – he is emigrating for good.

**Foul play** – bad intentions Ex. A man has been found dead and the police suspect foul play.

**From hand to mouth** – a miserable existence Ex. After her parent's death she lead a life from hand to mouth.

**To face the music** – to face trouble, to face consequences of one's actions Ex. He had to face the music as he was caught redhanded taking the bribe.

**To fall out** – to fight Ex. I have fallen out with my brother.

**To fall through** – to collapse Ex. We had planned to go to Paris but the plans fell through.

**To fall to the ground** – to come to nothing Ex. He fell to the ground in his business.

**To fan the flames** – to increase excitement Ex. Cinema fanned the flames of his passionate youth.

**To feather one's nest** – to care for one's selfish interest Ex. All the time he has been a member of the committee he has been feathering his own nest.

**To feel at home** – to feel happy or at ease Ex. I always feel at home in Korea when I go there on holiday.

**To fight shy of** – to attempt to avoid a thing or person Ex. He fought shy of introducing her to his wife.

**To fish in troubled waters** – to take advantage of the troubles of others Ex. During the war, his company had been quietly fishing in troubled waters by selling electronic communication systems to both sides.

**To fizzle out** – failed out gradually Ex. His enthusiasm gradually fizzled out as the rigorous training progressed.

**To flog a dead horse** – to waste one's energy and time Ex. Trying to revive old passions is akin to flogging a dead horse.

**To fly in the face of** – to insult Ex. He flew in the face of the manager in the annual general meeting.

**To follow in the foot-steps of** – to follow somebody's example Ex. When he joined the police force he was following in his father's footsteps.

**To follow suit** – to follow example of Ex. He went to bed and I followed suit after a few minutes.

**To foot the bill** – to pay the bill Ex. Everyone enjoyed the wedding except my father, who was footing the bill.

**Gala day** – a day of rejoicings Ex. My brother's wedding day was a gala day for me.

**Gift of the gab** – fluency of speech Ex. Politicians need to have the gift of the gab.

**Give and take** – the making of mutual concessions, *quid pro quo* Ex. There must be some give and take in discussions between trade unions and management.

**Give currency to** – to give wide publicity Ex. The media gave a currency to the Miss World show.

**Go in for** – to take up as an occupation Ex. My son is going in for Medicine.

**Go off the deep end** – to lose temper Ex. He really went off the deep end when he heard that she had not booked the tickets.

**Go the rounds** – be circulated Ex. His first novel went the rounds for a year before he finally found a publisher for it.

**Grain of salt** – to believe only a part of statement Ex. The public took the minister's speech with a grain of salt.

**To be Greek** – unintelligible, not clear Ex. The doctors were discussing my illness but what they were saying was Greek to me.

**To be a good hand at** – to be expert Ex. He is a good hand at carpentry.

**To gain ground** – to progress Ex. His views were once scoffed at but are now gaining ground rapidly.

**To get at the bottom of** – to find out the truth Ex. I'll get at the bottom of this affair even if it takes me a year!

**To get away with** – to do something without the fear of any repercussion Ex. He got away with the task of resigning from his old job.

**To get back at** – to retaliate Ex. He's likely to get back at you after his humiliating defeat at the hustings.

**To get down to brass tacks** – decide about the practical details Ex. Let's stop arguing about theories and get down to brass tacks.

**To get into a mess** – to get into muddle Ex. Due to their forged passports, they got into a terrible mess.

**To get into a scrap** – to be involved in a difficult situation Ex. She got into a scrap when she reached Dubai.

**To get into hot water** – to get into scrap, to get into trouble Ex. You will get into hot water if you are late again.

**To get on one's nerves** – to be a source of worry Ex. His behaviour really gets on my nerves.

**To get the better of** – to overpower, to defeat Ex. In the third round he began to get the better of his opponent.

**To get the sack** – to be dismissed Ex. I'll get the sack if I arrive at the office late !

**To get the upper hand** – to become stronger, to get the better position Ex. Our team managed to get the upper hand in the end.

**To get wind of** – to come to know of Ex. The police got the wind of an attempt to rob the bank, so they surrounded the building.

**To gird up one's loins** – to prepare oneself for a work Ex. Since the job had to be done, we girded up our loins and set to work.

**To give a bit or a piece of one's mind** – to rebuke; to scold Ex. If he does that again, she's going to give him a piece of her mind.

**To give a person the cold shoulder** – to show a person apathy Ex. All the neighbours gave her the cold shoulder because she ill-treated her children.

**To give a slip** – to escape Ex. The thief gave the policeman the slip.

**To give a wide berth to** – to avoid, to keep aloof from Ex. He gave a wide berth to his ex-wife.

**To give away** – to reveal, betray, disclose Ex. He gave away our hiding-place.

**To give chapter and verse** – to give full proof Ex. He wanted us to give him chapter and verse for our belief that his department spent too much.

**To give in** – to yield to pressure, to succumb Ex. The only way to win a war is to keep fighting and never think about giving in.

**To give oneself airs** – to assume a superior attitude, to feel proud Ex. She gives herself too much airs.

**To give quarter to** – to have sympathy with Ex. Due to her ill health everyone has given her a quarter.

**To give the cold shoulder** – to receive in a cold and careless manner Ex. To avoid getting entangled in an argument, he cold shouldered the shareholder.

**To give way** – collapse, replace by Ex. The old and lengthy course has given way to a new and short one.

**To go against the grain** – against one's likings Ex. It goes against the grain for me to tell lies.

**To go all out for** – to make the maximum possible effort Ex. You'll have to go all out for the victory.

**To go by** – to judge something by Ex. She decided to go by her own views.

**To go easy** – not to use excessively Ex. She went easy with her Law studies.

**To go hand in hand** – to go together Ex. Poverty and crime go hand in hand.

**To go scot free** – to escape unpunished Ex. The older of the two boys was fined but the younger got off scot free.

**To go the whole hog** – to go to the fullest extent; to agree Ex. I've bought a new dress – I think I'll go the whole hog and buy shoes and a hand bag.

**To go through fire and water** – to make every sacrifice Ex. She brought up a her child by going through fire and water.

**To go to dogs** – to be utterly ruined Ex. His business has gone to the dogs due to his apathy.

**To go to the wall** – to be ruined to, be hard pressed Ex. Several small firms went to the wall in the past financial year.

**To go with the current** – to follow the general trend Ex. All the students decided to go with the current.

**To go without saying** – to be clear Ex. It goes without saying that I didn't lose – I never lose.

**To go home to** – to appeal Ex. To win their confidence, you will have to go home to them.

**To grease the palm** – to bribe Ex. He greased the palms of the Income Tax officer to avoid being taxed.

## "H"

**A hair breadth escape** – a narrow escape Ex. He had a hair breadth escape from the accident.

**A hard nut to crack** – a difficult problem, a stubborn person Ex. The Excise official was a hard nut to crack.

**Hair standing on end** – a sign of fear and surprise Ex. That horror film really made my hair stand on end.

**Hale and hearty** – very healthy and sound Ex. After coming back from U.S.A. she has become hale and hearty.

**Hammer and tongs** – with all might Ex. They fought for the country hammer and tongs.

**Hand in gloves with** – on very intimate terms Ex. Some well known politicians have been found to be hand in glove with leading gangsters.

**Hang by a thread** – to be in a miserable condition Ex. His life is hanging by a thread.

**Hang heavy** – difficult to pass Ex. The assignment is hanging heavy over my head.

**Happy go lucky** – careless, depending on good luck Ex. She is such a happy-go-lucky person.

**Hard and fast** – strict Ex. The rules of the school regarding the admissions are hard and fast.

**Hard of hearing** – somewhat deaf Ex. He is hard of hearing due to old age.

**Hard up** – in financial difficulty Ex. I am a bit hard up at the moment.

**Haunted house** – in which ghosts or spirits are supposed to live Ex. They say that the Mayor's bungalow is a haunted house.

**Heads and shoulders above others** – very superior Ex. He thinks himself to be heads and shoulders above others.

**Heart and soul** – with full energy Ex. I tried to settle the matter heart and soul.

**Heels of Achilles** – vulnerable point Ex. He was a ruthless businessman but his uncritical love for his daughter was his Achilles Heel.

**Helter skelter** – pell mell, to run in confusion Ex. Seeing the lion he ran helter-skelter.

**Henpecked** – a husband under the control or thumb of his wife Ex. He never does anything without asking his wife first – he's completely henpecked.

**Herculean task** – a work requiring great efforts Ex. Climbing the mountain was really a Herculean task.

**High spirits** – to be very happy Ex. You seem to be in high spirits today. What's the matter ?

**High time** – proper time Ex. It is high time that this job was finished.

**Hobson's choice** – no choice at all Ex. Since this is the only car I can find for sale it's a case of Hobson's choice.

**Hold good** – to be valid Ex. Does that rule hold good in every case?

**Hold on** – to continue efforts Ex. Hold on to those shares, they'll appreciate soon!

**Hold out** – not yield Ex. He says he knows nothing about it but I think he's holding out on us.

**Hole and corner** – secret and underhand Ex. I hate hole and corner affairs.

**Horns of dilemma** – to be in a fix Ex. His decision left her on the horns of dilemma as she could not decide whether to risk offending him or agree to something she disapproved of.

**Hue and cry** – to raise a great cry and or stir, to raise alarm Ex. There will be a great hue and cry about this decision.

**Hush money** – a bribe, price of silence Ex. The criminals gave the boy hush money when they realized that he had overheard their plans for the robbery.

**To be hoisted with one's petard** – to be killed with one's own sword Ex. The councillor who introduced parking restrictions to the town was hoist with his own petard when he was himself fined for parking wrongly.

**To hammer out** – to plan, to devise Ex. It was hammered out that the enemy camp be attacked at midnight.

**To hang in the balance** – undecided Ex. His fate was hanging in the balance till the final verdict was passed.

**To hang fire** – delayed Ex. Our plans for the new factory are hanging fire at the moment.

**To harp on the same string or scheme** – to talk continuously of the same matter Ex. Don't harp on the same string – the consumer choice has changed.

**To have a bee in one's bonnet** – to take the remarks seriously Ex. She has a bee in her bonnet about going to America.

**To have a finger in every pie** – to interfere unnecessarily Ex. Before reforms, Indian business houses believed in having a finger in every pie.

**To have a windfall** – unexpected good fortune Ex. Getting the lottery draw on her name was a windfall for her.

**To have an old head on young shoulders** – ripe in wisdom but young in years Ex. He is just fifteen years old degree holder and thus has an old head on young shoulders.

**To have one's hands full** – to be overbusy Ex. She must have her hands full with those four children to look after.

**To have one's way** – to do one's own will Ex. That child always cries if he doesn't get his own way.

**To hit below the belt** – to be mean, to fight unfairly Ex. Offering your product below the cost price is like hitting your competitors below the belt.

**To hit the ceiling** – to give an outlet to anger Ex. The boss hit the ceiling when he came to know that the line staff was on strike.

**To hit the nail on the head** – to do what is proper at a proper time Ex. You hit the nail on the head when you described her as being naive.

**To hold a brief** – to support by action or influence Ex. He expects his father to hold a brief for him.

**To hold a candle to** – to be equal to, to be comparable to the other Ex. Our new manager is not fit to hold a candle to the previous one.

**To hope against hope** – to entertain hope when there is no hope Ex. Their cat had been missing for six weeks but they were still hoping against hope that it would come back to them.

**To hold the baby** – be burdened with a task that should be shared by others too Ex. No sooner had he said that we would do the job than he went abroad, leaving me holding the baby.

**To hold one's own** – to maintain one's position boldly Ex. The others tried to prove that he was wrong but he managed to hold his own.

**To hold water** – to be valid Ex. His explanation doesn't hold water.

## "I"

**An iron hand** – severe hand Ex. India needs politicians willing to rule with an iron hand to rein in corruption.

**An iron will** – strong determination Ex. She left the house with an iron will.

**An irony of fate** – happening of events contrary to natural expectations Ex. It was an irony of fate that she lost her parents at such a young age.

**In a nut-shell** – briefly, as a summary Ex. It would take hours to describe exactly what happened but in a nutshell he tried to make us look silly and failed.

**In black and white** – in writing Ex. Would you put that down in black and white ?

**In cold blood** – cruelly Ex. He killed them in cold blood.

**In full swing** – in great progress Ex. The work of building roads was in full swing.

**In the air** – wide-spread, prevalent Ex. The news the bank robbery is in the air.

**In the course of** – during Ex. They served them hot and spicy food in the course of their dinner.

**In the face of** – in spite of Ex. He succeeded in the face of great difficulties.

**In the guise of** – in the dress of Ex. He tried to escape in the guise of a pathan.

**In the light of** – keeping in view Ex. The theory has been abandoned in the light of modern discoveries.

**In the long run** – in the end Ex. We find it difficult to save the money in the long run.

**In the nick of time** – just in time Ex. He arrived in the nick of time.

**In the teeth of** – in the face of Ex. They were walking in the teeth of a gale.

**In the twinkling of an eye** – in no time Ex. He arrived in the twinkling of an eye.

**In the wake of** – behind Ex. He made several valuable business deals in the wake of his appearance on television.

**In tune with** – in keeping with Ex. The sunny weather was in tune with his happy mood.

**In vogue** – to be in fashion Ex. This pattern of your dress is in vogue again.

**Ins and outs** – full details Ex. He alone knows all the ins and outs of this scheme.

**Iron out** – smoothen Ex. The inter-departmental meet was organised to iron out the differences between the employees.

**To be in one's elements** – in one's proper sphere Ex. He is in his element when he is organizing something.

## "J"

**Jack of all trades** – a person supposed to know everything partially Ex. He is jack of all trades as he can do the work from laying concrete to mending cars.

**Jail bird** – a person who has been to jail many times Ex. He is not ashamed of taking bribe as he has become a jail bird.

**Jump at** – to accept immediately Ex. He jumped at the cakes which were offered to him.

**Jump down one's throat** – to reply in an angry manner Ex. She jumped down my throat before I had a chance to apologize.

**Jump on** – to scold severely Ex. She jumped on her son, who had told a lie.

**Jump to the conclusion** – to arrive at a conclusion soon Ex. Don't jump to conclusion on so little information, let me explain everything to you.

## "K"

**Keep to** – stick to, adhere to Ex. Keep to the standard formula given.

**Keep up with** – to keep pace with Ex. If you wish to keep up with the world, regular reading is a must.

**Kick up the dust** – to create disturbance Ex. Please do not kick up the dust in the meeting.

**Kith and kin** – relatives Ex. All her kith and kins gave her full support.

**To keep a good table** – to entertain Ex. She keeps a good table whenever the guests comes to her house.

**To keep a straight face** – to avoid smiling or laughing Ex. She kept a straight face all through out the party.

**To keep abreast of** – to be familiar with Ex. I am keeping abreast of the latest developments.

**To keep body and soul together** – to remain alive Ex. He has to have a snack in the middle of the morning to keep body and soul together until lunch time.

**To keep one's head** – to remain mentally calm in an emergency Ex. She kept her head when she found the flats were on fire.

**To keep one's head above water** – to tide over difficulty, to escape debt Ex. We are not making lot of money in the shop but we are keeping our heads above water.

**To keep the ball rolling** – to maintain interest of a conversation Ex. He can be relied on to keep the ball rolling at parties.

**To keep the powder dry** – to be ready for any work Ex. In the office he keeps the powder dry.

**To keep the wolf from the door** – to keep away, hunger and starvation Ex. The job which I have will help me keep the wolf from the door.

**To keep up appearances** – to maintain outward show Ex. They haven't much money but they buy expensive clothes in order to keep up appearances.

**To kick up a row** – to make a great noise Ex. When the flight was cancelled without prior notice, the passengers kicked up a row at the airport.

**To knock down** – to defeat Ex. He was very angry when he was knocked down in the competition.

**To knock off** – to reduce; stop working Ex. What time do you knock off in this factory?

## "L"

**A left-handed compliment** – a false praise Ex. He said he liked me a lot better than the last time he met me, which I thought was rather a left-handed compliment.

**At a low ebb** – on the decline Ex. She was at a low ebb after the operation.

**Labour of love** – work undertaken not for profit but for service Ex. It took her a long time to make her daughter's dress – but it was a real labour of love.

**Laughing stock** – an object of ridicule Ex. He always makes a laughing stock of himself by wearing absurd dresses.

**Lay off** – to remove from work Ex. The firm has decided to lay off a quarter of its workforce.

**Leap in the dark** – a careless action Ex. Since he was quite unknown as an artist, employing him to paint such an important picture was rather a leap in the dark.

**Lend oneself to** – allow to be carried away Ex. You should not lend yourself to emotional blabbering.

**Let down** – to fail to keep promise Ex. Do come for the party, otherwise you will let me down before everybody.

**Let off** – released Ex. Let off the calf, the cow is searching for it.

**Let up** – to be sluggish Ex. Don't let up just when victory is in sight.

**Life and soul** – main figure Ex. He sings, tells jokes and dances with all girls – he's the life and soul of the party.

**Lion's share** – a major share Ex. When his money was divided, his wife got the lion's share.

**Live up to** – to maintain certain standards Ex. Will it be possible for us Indians to live up to the ideals enshrined in our constitution?

**Loaves and fishes** – material comforts Ex. After lot of efforts she has gained loaves and fishes.

**Lock, stock and barrel** – with all belongings Ex. They moved the business lock, stock and barrel.

**Look blue** – to feel nervous or depressed Ex. She looked blue when she came to the office.

**Look down one's nose** – to regard others contemptuously Ex. His mother looks down her nose at his wife.

**Look forward to** – to expect with pleasure Ex. I am looking forward to seeing you.

**Look on** – watch carefully Ex. He promised that he will look on the new project.

**Look out** – take care Ex. She said she will look out for the new house.

**Look to** – to request for help Ex. The citizens look to their leaders in moments of crisis.

**Look up** – to verify Ex. Before signing the cheque, better look up the past record of the company.

**Look up to** – to admire something/someone Ex. We all look up to our leaders in crises.

**To land an ear** – to listen to Ex. If you will lend an ear, I shall explain the arrangements for our staff outing.

**To land on one's feet** – to be lucky Ex. He lost his job last year but he really landed on his feet as he got a better job.

**To laugh in one's sleeves** – to laugh in secret but not openly Ex. I had the feeling she was laughing in her sleeves at something I didn't understand.

**To lead a cat and dog life** – to lead a life of constant quarrelling Ex. Both the partners lead a cat and dog life.

**To lead a dog's life** – to lead a miserable life Ex. He leads a dog's life, living with his mother – she won't let him do anything she disapproves of.

**To lead astray** – to misguide Ex. He lead the investigators astray by giving them wrong information regarding the murder.

**To leave in the lurch** – to leave in time of difficulty and trouble Ex. Soon after their child was born he went off and left her in the lurch.

**To leave no stone unturned** – to make all possible efforts Ex. The police left no stone unturned to find the child.

**To let bygones be bygones** – to ignore the past Ex. They agreed to let bygones be bygones and not to refer to the incident again.

**To let off steam** – to react aggressively to release the tensions Ex. A noisy quarrel can be a way of letting off steam.

**To lie in wait for** – to wait for in concealment Ex. The police were lying in wait for the burglar when he turned up.

**To live in glass-houses** – to be open to criticism Ex. Don't comment upon others if you live in glass houses.

**To lose head** – to lose balance of mind, to be proud Ex. I must apologize – I rather lost my head when I thought you had burned the only copy of my manuscript.

## "M"

**A man of straw** – a man with no voice or will of his own Ex. Our politicians are men of straw.

**A mare's nest** – an unfounded rumour Ex. He is not a very reputable researcher – he is always discovering mare's nest.

**A moot point** – a point or question still open to discussion Ex. Whether India is truly making any progress whatsoever is a moot point given the increasing population.

**Maiden speech** – a speech made for the first time Ex. He made a memorable maiden speech at the House of Commons.

**Man in the street** – an ordinary person Ex. The man in the street often has little interest in politics.

**Man of letters** – a scholar with literary tastes Ex. He is really a man of letters.

**Man of moment** – an important person Ex. Because of his frequent diplomatic missions to troubled parts of the world, he is often considered to be the man of the moment.

**Man of word** – a reliable person Ex. If he said he would come, he will come – he is a man of word.

**Much ado about nothing** – to make fuss Ex. The government's claims that the infrastructure sectors in India were rapidly developing was described by a scribe as much ado about nothing.

**To make a clean sweep of** – to remove Ex. South Africa made a clean sweep of the series against India.

**To make a dash** – to go quickly Ex. He made a dash to the accident spot.

**To make a mark** – to distinguish oneself Ex. He is beginning to make a mark as an actor.

**To make a mess of** – to bungle Ex. He made a mess of his work.

**To make a mountain of mole hill** – to exaggerate difficulties or trifles Ex. You don't have to assume that the child has had an accident just because he's late – you're always making mountains of mole hills.

**To make a point of** – to do something (certainly). Ex. I'll make a point of asking her today.

**To make amends for** – to compensate for damage or injury Ex. He gave her a present to make amends for his rudeness.

**To make an example of** – to punish someone to make it a warning to others Ex. The judge decided to make an example of the young thief and sent him to prison for five years.

**To make away with** – to carry off Ex. The thief made away with the suitcase full of currency notes.

**To make both ends meet** – to live within one's income Ex. The widow and her four children found it difficult to make both ends meet.

**To make do without** – to manage without something Ex. The meat is over, so we'll have to make do without it today.

**To make free with** – to take liberty with Ex. His wife suspected him of making free with the typists in the office.

**To make hay while the sun shines** – to make the best use of the opportunity Ex. We have been given an unexpected holiday tomorrow, so I think I'll make hay while the sun shines and get started on the spring-cleaning.

**To make headway** – to progress slowly and steadily Ex. We are not making much headway with this new scheme.

**To make light of** – to treat lightly, to attach no importance Ex. He had a bad fall but made light of his cuts and carried on.

**To make much of** – to make an issue of something trivial Ex. He made much of the fact that the salaries were paid earlier than the due date.

**To make neither head nor tail of** – not to understand Ex. I can make neither head nor tail out of the subject.

**To make one's way** – to succeed, to prosper Ex. They made their way towards the centre of the town.

**To make the flesh creep** – to cause horror Ex. That science fiction story really made my flesh creep.

**To make the heart bleed** – to be filled with sorrow or pity Ex. My heart really bleed for him when I heard he was now so poor he had to sell one of his four holiday homes.

**To make up** – to compensate Ex. Next week we'll try to make up for lost time.

**To make up one's mind** – to resolve Ex. He made up his mind to change the job.

**To make up with** – to compose one's differences Ex. Realizing his mistake, the husband finally made up with his wife.

**To make way** – to make room for others Ex. The crowd parted to make way for the ambulance.

**Wide of the mark** – irrelevant Ex. He answer was wide of the mark.

## "N"

**A narrow escape** – to be saved with a great difficulty Ex. Thank God she had cancelled her ticket. – it was a narrow escape for her, because the bus met with an accident that day.

**A necessary evil** – something which cannot be avoided Ex. She had to make a necessary evil of telling a lie for her son's benefit.

**Neck and neck** – side by side; even in a race or contest Ex. The top two students were obviously neck and neck for the class prize.

**Nook and corner** – everywhere Ex. They searched for the diamond ring in every nook and corner.

**Not worth the salt** – good for nothing Ex. If he can't even do that, he's not worth his salt.

**Now and again** – occasionally Ex. I see him at the club every now and again.

**Null and void** – invalid, of no effect Ex. The law has become null and void now.

**To nip in the bud** – to destroy a thing at the very beginning Ex. The managers nipped the strike in the bud.

**To nurse a grudge** – to have jealousy or revenge Ex. She nurses a grudge against me – her action shows that.

## "O"

**Odds and ends** – different things, big and small Ex. There were various odds and ends lying about on the table.

**Off hand** – without previous preparation Ex. He made an off hand remark.

**Of no avail** – of no use Ex. This scheme is of no avail.

**Of one's own accord** – of one's own free will Ex. France conducted the N-tests of its own accord.

**On one's last legs** – about to fall Ex. The company is on its last legs now.

**On the sly** – privately Ex. I think he's helping himself to the firm's stationery on the sly.

**On the spur of the moment** – without any deliberation, at once Ex. We decided to go to Paris on the spur of the moment.

**Order of the day** – something common or general Ex. Hats with feathers are the order of the day at fashionable weddings this year.

**Out of pocket** – without money, short of Ex. His last deal has left him out of pocket.

**Out of the wood** – out of danger or difficulty Ex. We're not out of the woods yet by a long way.

**Once for all** – finally Ex. Once for all, I refuse !

**Out of joint** – in disorder and confusion Ex. He has put all the matters out of joint.

**On the face of it** – apparently Ex. On the face of it, the problem was quite easy but it actually turned out to be very difficult.

**On the ground of** – for Ex. He took a leave from the office on grounds of his illness.

**To be on the look out for** – to be in the search of Ex. She is on the look out for a governess for her daughter.

**To be on the right side of** – to be less than or below Ex. The secret of his success is that he has always managed to be on the right side of the powers that be.

**To be on the verge of** – on the point of, about to Ex. She was on the verge of committing suicide when her mother reached there.

**To be on the wane** – to decline Ex. His power is on the wane.

**To be on the wrong side of** – to be more than Ex. Having found himself on the wrong side of the law, he meekly gave in.



## "P"

- Pillar to post** – from one place of shelter to another Ex. He was driven from pillar to post in search of a job.
- Point blank** – frankly Ex. You can talk point blank with your loss for the raise in income.
- Pros and cons** – arguments for and against Ex. Let's hear all the pros and cons before we make a decision.
- To pay in the same coin** – to give tit for tat Ex. Vindictive people always try to pay back in the same coin.
- To pay lip service** – sympathy, to pretend to be faithful Ex. She has stopped even paying lip-service to the rules.
- To pay off old scores** – to have revenge Ex. I have to pay off some old scores to her.
- To play ducks and drakes** – to spend lavishly Ex. The govt. officials are not expected to play ducks and drakes with the funds.
- To play fast and loose** – to say one thing and to do another (be inconsistent) Ex. The cop threatened the thief not to play fast and loose with him.
- To play into the hands of** – to be under the control of Ex. By accepting the money he has played right into my hands.
- To play second fiddle** – to be in a subordinate position Ex. He disliked playing the second fiddle to anyone and soon left the firm to start his own business.
- To play to the gallery** – to appeal to lower taste Ex. The Director of the firm played to the gallery by misbehaving with his lady staff member.
- To play truant** – to stay away from class Ex. The teacher gave him a good scolding for playing truant.
- To plead guilty** – to confess one's crime Ex. At last the criminal pleaded guilty.
- To pocket an insult** – to bear insult quietly Ex. She pocketed all the insults just for the sake of her child.
- To poison one's ears** – to prejudice Ex. If you keep taking interest in the firebrand leader's parochial speeches, you are likely to poison your ears.
- To poke one's nose** – to interfere with Ex. He is always poking his nose into my affairs.
- To pull a long face** – to look sad and worried Ex. She pulled a long face as she was not selected for the Republic Day parade at Delhi.
- To pull one's legs** – to make a fool of Ex. You haven't really got a black mark on your face – he's only pulling your leg.
- To put a spoke in one's wheel** – to hinder one's progress Ex. It's time someone put a spoke in his wheel – he always seems to get what he wants.
- To put heads together** – to consult Ex. We can buy a good product if we put our heads together.
- To put one's foot down** – to show determination Ex. He wanted to go to Spain but I put my foot down and refused to let him to.
- To put the best foot forward** – to do one's best Ex. If you put your best foot forward you will complete the work in time.
- To put the cart before the horse** – to do things in a wrong manner Ex. Isn't it rather putting the cart before the horse to redecorate the bathroom when you are planning to put in a new bath soon?

## "R"

- A rainy day** – a time of difficulty or poverty Ex. I don't spend my whole salary – I put some in the bank for a rainy day.
- A red letter day** – auspicious day of rejoicing, lucky and important day Ex. The day I won a prize on the football pools was a real red letter day.
- A red rag to a bull** – highly irritating, a cause for anger Ex. Criticizing the liberal party in front of him is like a red rag to a bull.
- A rolling stone** – one who is never constant to one work or the other Ex. He changes his job after every two months – he is a rolling stone.
- A rough diamond** – an illiterate but noble person Ex. The hero of a western film is often a rough diamond.
- A royal road** – an easy way to achieve an end Ex. There is no royal road to the IIMs.
- Rain or shine** – under all circumstances Ex. He goes for a long walk every morning, rain or shine.
- Red tapism** – official formalities causing excessive delays Ex. Red tapism has been the nemesis of many a project in India.
- Right hand man** – a very useful person on whom one can depend Ex. I couldn't do without William – he is my right hand man.
- Rise from the ranks** – to rise from a humble position Ex. Today he is a IAS officer but he has risen from the ranks.
- Root and branch** – completely, entirely Ex. This evil system must be destroyed root and branch.
- Run over** – go over Ex. Don't let the dog out of the garden or he'll get run over.
- Run to seed** – to become weak Ex. She has run to seed after her illness.
- The rank and file** – the masses Ex. The rank and file in a trade union do not always agree with their officials.
- To rack one's brains** – to think hard Ex. He racked his brains at the problem.
- To read between the lines** – to read carefully Ex. She said she was managing all right but reading between the lines I could see she was tired.
- To rest on one's laurels** – to rest satisfied with the honours already won Ex. I think it used to be a good school but it has been resting on its laurels for twenty years or so.
- To rest on one's oars** – to rest after hard work Ex. After the hard work of the last few weeks, I think I am entitled to rest on my oars for a day or two.
- To ride roughshod over** – to be inconsiderable or cruel Ex. He is so ambitious that he rides roughshod over everyone.
- To rise to the occasion** – to be found equal to the task Ex. He had never been asked to chair a meeting before but he rose to the occasion magnificently.
- To rub shoulders with** – to come in close touch with Ex. He rubs shoulders with some very strange people in his job.
- To run amuck** – to go mad Ex. She ran amuck with pain.
- To run down** – weak in health Ex. She has run down after malaria.
- To run riot** – to wander without restraint Ex. When the teacher left the room the children ran riot.
- To run the gauntlet** – to undergo severe criticism Ex. The government always has to run the gauntlet of the trade unions.

# "S"

**A sharp tongue** – a bitter tongue Ex. He could bear his wife's sharp tongue no longer.

**A sheet anchor** – the chief support Ex. She is the sheet anchor of the company.

**A square deal** – a fair bargain, justice Ex. You always get a square deal in that shop.

**A square meal** – full meal Ex. Her children never seem to get a square meal.

**A square peg in a round hole** – a misfit Ex. The director of the firm dismissed him because he was like a square peg in a round hole.

**A stepping stone** – source of success or help Ex. This course is a stepping stone towards the battle ahead.

**A storm in a tea cup** – a quarrel for trifling reason Ex. We thought that they had decided not to get married but their quarrel was just a storm in a tea cup.

**A stumbling block** – a great obstacle Ex. The scheme would be excellent but its cost is the main stumbling block.

**By the skin of one's teeth** – very narrowly Ex. We escaped by the skin of our teeth.

**Scapegoat** – a person who is made to bear the blame of others Ex. She has become a scapegoat in the house.

**Scot free** – to go without punishment Ex. H Mehta apparently went scot free.

**See through** – understand Ex. We saw through him and his little plan.

**Shake in the shoes** – to be in a state of fear Ex. He shook in the shoe when he was brought before the Judge.

**Shake off** – to get rid of Ex. By running very hard he managed to shake off his pursuers.

**Side issue** – something not connected with the matter in hand Ex. Inflow of western culture due to economic reformisms a side issue.

**Sing low** – to express one's views in an inconspicuous manner Ex. Due to the belligerent nature of the boss, he sang low throughout the meeting.

**Sink differences** – to forget/overlook differences Ex. For the next six months, we are going to sink our differences and work together.

**Smooth sailing** – no difficulty Ex. Study meticulously and you'll have a smooth sailing for the rest for your life.

**Snake in the grass** – a hidden enemy, a deceitful person Ex. Beware of him – he's a real snake in the grass.

**Sniff at** – to show derision for Ex. Having stayed in the US for so long, it would be unfair of you to sniff at the way Indians live.

**Spill one's sides** – to laugh merrily Ex. She always spills on her sides whenever they have any function at home.

**Stand by** – to support Ex. She stood by him throughout his trial.

**Steer clear of** – to avoid, to keep aloof Ex. You should steer clear of her as she is not trustworthy.

**Sum and substance** – gist, purport Ex. The sum and substance of the meeting was that the company did not want to go in for the JV.

**Sweet tooth** – liking for sweetmeat Ex. My friend has a sweet tooth, so I always give her chocolates.

**Swelled head** – pride Ex. He got a swelled head when he got the position of a Manager in the firm by setting aside his seniors.

**Sword of Damocles** – an impending danger Ex. The sword of Damocles has been hanging over us ever since we discovered my husband has cancer.

**To do a snow job** – to fool someone Ex. The salesman did a snow job when he offered 30% discount for an obsolete product.

**To sail in the same boat** – to be equally exposed to risk Ex. India and Pakistan are sailing in the same boat.

**To sail under false colours** – to pretend to be what one is not, to try to deceive Ex. She was very polite to everyone today – she was sailing under false colours.

**To save one's skin** – to accept without loss Ex. When they were attacked by armed forces, he managed to save his skin by pretending to be dead.

**To see a thing through coloured glasses** – to see a thing with a prejudiced mind Ex. While comparing different cultures, we do have a tendency to see things through coloured glasses.

**To set at naught** – to disregard Ex. I set him at naught after hearing him.

**To see eye to eye with** – to agree Ex. We have never seen eye to eye about this matter.

**To set Thames on fire** – to try to achieve an impossible distinction Ex. By projecting a 300% growth in sales, you are trying to set Thames on fire.

**To show a clean pair of heels** – to run away Ex. The police caught one of the thieves but the other showed them a clean pair of heels and got away.

**To show the white feather** – to show signs of cowardice Ex. He refused to join the protest and the others accused him of showing the white feather.

**To sing the blues** – to exhibit a discouraged attitude Ex. When the govt. officials gave the project a negative appraisal, he began singing the blues.

**To sit on the fence** – to remain neutral Ex. You can't sit on the fence forever – sooner or later you'll have to commit yourself.

**To sit pretty** – to be in a safe and comfortable position Ex. He was sitting pretty after the court's verdict in his favour.

**To sit up** – to take notice of Ex. That'll make them all sit up !

**To smell a rat** – to suspect something Ex. The police set up a trap but the thieves smelt a rat and drove away.

**To sow the wild oats** – to indulge in youthful follies Ex. Students shouldn't waste time sowing their wild oats.

**To speak one's mind** – to speak frankly Ex. If you'll allow me to speak my mind, I think your plan is quite unsuitable.

**To speak volumes** – to bear sufficient evidence for or against Ex. She said nothing but her face spoke volumes.

**To spill the beans** – to give secret information Ex. By Monday it was evident that someone had spilled the beans to the newspapers.

**To split hairs** – to go into minute details Ex. There's no need to split hairs about who actually did what – we both had a hand in it.

**To spread like a wild fire** – to spread rapidly Ex. The news of the invasion spread like wildfire.

**To stand in good stead** – to be useful and serviceable Ex. His knowledge of French stood him in good stead when he lost his money in France.

**To stand on one's own legs** – to be independent Ex. Taking the university degree will surely help him to stand on his legs.

**To stand on ceremony** – to insist on formalities Ex. Please do not stand on ceremony with me – call me Buddy.

**To stand up for** – to support Ex. I thanked him for standing up for my proposals.

**To stare in the face** – to threaten Ex. The accumulated losses are staring the company in the face.

**To steal a march** – to get the advantage secretly Ex. We stole a march on our rivals by issuing our new formula shampoo two weeks before they launched theirs.

**To stem the tide of** – to check, to stop Ex. To stem the tide of immigrants, Australia has made extremely stringent laws.

**To step into another's shoes** – to take another's place Ex. I wouldn't like to step in your shoes when they find out what you have done.

**To stick to one's guns** – to stand firm, to stick to one's principles Ex. No one believed her story but she stuck to her guns.

**To strain every nerve** – to try one's best Ex. I strained every nerve to bring a compromise between them.

**To stretch a point** – to bend the rules Ex. The children are allowed only two sweets a day but we might stretch a point today.

**To swallow the bait** – to fall an easy victim to temptations Ex. I swallowed the bait when I saw my favourite sweet in the plate.

## "T"

**A thorn in the flesh** – to be a source of anger or displeasure Ex. His sister is a thorn in his flesh.

**A turncoat** – a person who changes opinions Ex. His boss is a turncoat.

**A turning point** – anything that brings change Ex. Joining IIM was a turning point in her life.

**On tenterhooks** – in a state of suspense and anxiety Ex. We were all on tenterhooks waiting to hear the result of the general election.

**Take ill** – fall ill; consider unfavourably Ex. She will take ill if you refuse her invitation.

**Take the cake** – to be the topmost Ex. This moron really takes the cake.

**Tall talk** – boastful and exaggerated talk Ex. His tall talk impresses no one.

**Thankless task** – a selfless work for which we cannot expect anything Ex. Serving the poor and needy is always a thankless task.

**The thin edge of the wedge** – small beginning with bright future Ex. This demand is only the thin end of the wedge – soon they'll want more and more.

**The three R's** – reading, writing and arithmetic Ex. It is often said that modern education spends less time on the three Rs.

**Through thick and thin** – under all circumstances Ex. They were friends through thick and thin.

**Tied to the apron string of** – to be dependent upon somebody Ex. He is still tied to his mother's apron strings and is unable to think for himself.

**To be on the right scent** – to be going in right direction Ex. He has finished his BE and now he is doing MBA – he is on the right scent.

**To be taken aback** – to be extremely surprised Ex. I was taken aback when I saw the man whom I had heard was dead.

**To take a fancy to** – to like something Ex. He bought that house because his wife took a fancy to it.

**To take a leaf out of another's book** – to follow somebody's example Ex. It would be better if you take a leaf out of Pratima's book and arrive early.

**To take a thing lying down** – to pocket an insult without a murmur Ex. His boss scolded him in the party, which he took lying down.

**To take after** – to resemble in features Ex. She takes after her father.

**To take an issue** – to quarrel Ex. They were stopped from taking the issue again & again.

**To take away one's breath** – to surprise Ex. He nearly took away my breath when he landed up from USA without prior intimation.

**To take by storm** – to conquer rapidly Ex. The singer took the audience by storm.

**To take exception to** – to object Ex. The old lady took exception to the rudeness of the children.

**To take French leave** – leave without permission Ex. The soldier took French leave because he wanted to see his girl friend.

**To take heart** – to pluck up courage Ex. The soldiers took heart when they heard that reinforcements were coming.

**To take off the hat to** – to show respect Ex. I always take off the hat to my teachers.

**To take one's cue** – to take a hint Ex. You should take your cue and behave properly.

**To take root** – to become firmly established Ex. The new business took root.

**To take stock of** – to observe and estimate Ex. He had no time to take stock of the situation.

**To take the bull by the horns** – to face a difficulty boldly Ex. If you want to improve the situation you must take the bull by the horns.

**To take the lead** – to surge ahead in a competition Ex. Our country has taken a lead in the manufacturing of electronic goods.

**To take the plunge** – to take a bold decision Ex. She was hesitant about trying to learn French but finally decided to take the plunge.

**To take time by the forelock** – to act at once, to avoid delay Ex. Don't fight shy of the situation. Take time by the forelock.

**To take to heart** – to feel Ex. You mustn't take his unkind remarks to heart.

**To take to heels** – to run away Ex. The thief took to heels when the police arrived.

**To take to task** – to call to account, to scold, to require explanation Ex. She took him to task for his rudeness to her mother.

**To take up the cudgels** – to defend, to fight for somebody's claims Ex. She's taken up the cudgels on behalf of women's rights.

**To talk shop** – to discuss exclusively of one's business on profession Ex. We agreed not to talk shop at the party.

**To talk (someone) into** – persuade by talking Ex. She talked me into changing my job.

**To talk (someone) out of** – to discourage Ex. She tried to talk her husband out of going.

**To talk through a hat** – to exaggerate or bluff or make wild statement Ex. Don't believe what he says – he always talks through his hat.

**To tax one's patience** – to irritate Ex. She taxed my patience by not coming for the meeting on time.

**To tell upon** – to affect Ex. The strain of looking after her invalid mother is obviously telling upon her.

**To thank one's stars** – to consider oneself fortunate Ex. Thanks to my stars, I was not in the bus which met with an accident.

**To the letter** – completely Ex. He followed his father's instructions to the letter.

**To the tune of** – to the amount of Ex. He received the bills to the tune of Rs 100.

**To throw cold water on** – to discourage Ex. She often has good ideas but her boss throws cold water on all of them.

**To throw down the gauntlet** – to give an open challenge Ex. He threw down the gauntlet by calling his opponent a liar.

**To throw mud at** – to abuse, to vilify Ex. Ever since the politician's downfall people have been coming forward to throw mud at his achievements.

**To tide over** – to overcome Ex. The IMF promised a bridge loan to the govt. of India to help it tide over the forex crisis.

**To tip off** – to give a secret hint Ex. He tipped me off about her arrival.

**To toe the line** – to follow another's opinion or partly under pressure Ex. He isn't allowed to do as he likes in that firm – they make him toe the line.

**To turn a deaf ear to** – to refuse to listen to Ex. They tried to persuade her not to go but she turned a deaf ear to their advice.

**To turn one's back on** – to refuse to help Ex. All his friends turned their back on him when he went bankrupt.

**To turn one's head** – to be proud Ex. His success at the race course has turned his head.

**To turn over a new leaf** – a change for the better Ex. He has been in jail several times but now he seems to have turned over a new leaf.

**To turn tail** – to withdraw cowardly Ex. He turned tail to the war.

**To turn the corner** – to pass the critical stage Ex. He was very ill but he's turned the corner now.

**To turn the tables on** – to reverse the situation Ex. I'll turn the tables on you one day and I will be the boss.

**To turn turtle** – to upset, to capsize Ex. The boat turned turtle in the rough sea.

**Tooth and nail** – furiously, violently Ex. They fought tooth and nail.

**True to one's salt** – to be loyal to someone Ex. Many of them gave him big offers but he was true to his salt and thus rejected them all and continued with the old job.

**Twinkling of an eye** – very quickly Ex. He arrived in the twinkling of an eye.

## "U"

**An uphill task** – a difficult work Ex. Making him speak the truth was an uphill task.

**Under a cloud** – in disfavour or disgrace Ex. He wasn't expelled from the firm but he certainly left under a cloud.

**Under lock and key** – carefully Ex. I always keep all my medicines under lock and key so the children can't get hold of them.

**Under the thumb of** – under the control of Ex. She is completely under the thumb of her husband.

**Up and doing** – active Ex. I like to be up and doing early when I have guests for lunch.

**Up one's sleeves** – something hidden but ready for use in reserve Ex. I am keeping this idea up my sleeves for the time being.

**Up to the mark** – up to certain standard Ex. His work hasn't been up to the mark for some time.

**Ups and downs** – good and bad times Ex. We all have our ups and downs.

**Utopian scheme** – a visionary scheme, not practicable Ex. Your old scheme has become an utopian scheme.

## "V"

**A vexed question** – a question regarding which there has been much controversy but no solution has been arrived at Ex. We still have not solved the vexed question of who is to pay for the improvements of our school.

**To vie with** – to compete with Ex. Our company is going to vie with the Tatas.

## "W"

**A wet blanket** – kill joy, a dull fellow who spoils our joy Ex. Don't ask him to the party – he's such a wet blanket.

**A white elephant** – an expensive burdensome but use less thing Ex. That enormous wardrobe your mother gave us has been nothing but a white elephant.

**A white lie** – a harmless lie Ex. I'd rather tell my mother a white lie than tell her the truth and upset her.

**A wild goose chase** – a foolish and useless search Ex. The false clue sent us north on a wild-geese chase, while the criminals escaped southwards.

**A wolf in a sheep's clothing** – a hypocrite, a deceiver Ex. I always suspected that his meek little wife was a wolf in sheep's clothing.

**To be within an ace of** – almost nearly Ex. He was within an ace of success.

**To be worth its weight in gold** – to be very precious Ex. This book is worth its weight in gold.

**To wash one's dirty linen in public** – to tell people about one's private matters Ex. If you contest the divorce case your wife is bringing against you, it will simply result in a lot of washing of dirty linen in public.

**To wash one's hands of** – to have no connection Ex. He told them that if they wouldn't listen to his advice, he would wash his hands of their schemes.

**To weather the storm** – to come out safely through a difficulty Ex. Next year or two will be very difficult for our firm but I think we will weather the storm.

**To while away** – to pass in amusement Ex. We whiled away our vacations.

**To win laurels** – to achieve success or win fame Ex. He won laurels for his family by getting selected in the R. D. parade.

**To win the palm** – to win a prize Ex. She won the palm in the debate competition.

**To wind up** – to bring to an end Ex. He will wind up his business and go to live with his son in America.

**To worship the rising sun** – to respect the man who is rising in power Ex. Indian politics is all about worshipping the rising sun.

**Wait upon** – to serve Ex. She waited upon them happily when they came to her house for dinner at an odd hour.

**Walk over** – very easy victory Ex. In the football match the A team walked over the B team, as the players in B team were new.

**Wash out** – quite dull Ex. The match was an entire wash out.

**Ways and means** – resources Ex. You must use any ways and means you can think of.

**Wear and tear** – decrease in value due to constant use Ex. I can't pay you more than Rs. 50 for this box, taking into consideration its wear and tear.

**Wheels within wheels** – complication Ex. It would seem reasonable to deal with the problem as you suggest but there are unfortunately wheels within wheels.

**When all is said and done** – as a conclusion Ex. Now let us stop discussing the matter – when all is said and done.

**Wide of the mark** – beside the purpose Ex. Please stop talking now, you are going wide of the mark.

**Willy-nilly** – somehow or the other Ex. I shall go and get the order willy-nilly.

**Windfall** – unexpected good fortune Ex. Her coming to my house was a windfall for me.

**Wishful thinking** – belief founded on wishes rather than facts Ex. His belief that she will marry a poor man like him is only wishful thinking.

**With a grain of salt** – with some reservation, not at the face value of Ex. Please take this assessment with a grain of salt.

**With a vengeance** – excessively Ex. If the plans for the redevelopment scheme are approved, they'll start knocking houses down with a vengeance.

**With one accord** – unanimously, with one voice. Ex. With one accord they stood up to cheer him.

**With open arms** – warmly and cordially Ex. They received their visitors with open arms.

**Within an ace of** – almost, to be nearly Ex. He was within an ace of success.

**Word of mouth** – a solemn promise Ex. This deal has been clinched only on the basis of word of mouth.

# Phrasal verbs

Many verbs (called phrasal verbs), when followed by various prepositions or adverbs, acquire an idiomatic sense.

## For example

- He backed up (supported) his friend's claim.
- The present disturbances will soon blow over (pass off).
- The police produced evidence to bear out (substantiate) the charge of murder.
- You must not build your hopes upon (rely upon) his promises.
- The matter has been cleared up (explained).
- I readily closed with (accepted) his offer.
- He is ready to dispose of (sell) his car for Rs.1,500.
- Rust has eaten away (corroded) the plate.
- They fixed upon (chose) him to do the work.
- My good behaviour so far gained on (won the favour of) the emperor that I began to conceive hopes of liberty.
- The habit of chewing tobacco has been growing upon (is having stronger and stronger hold over) him.
- Please hear me out (i.e. hear me to the end).
- I have hit upon (found) a good plan to get rid of him.
- About an hour ago I saw a fellow hanging about (loitering about) our bungalow.
- These events led up to (culminated in) the establishment of a republic.
- During excavations one of the workmen lighted upon (chanced to find, discovered) a gold idol.
- During her long illness she often longed for (desired) death.
- I could not prevail on (persuade, induce) him to attend the meeting.
- For years I could not shake off (get rid of) my malaria.
- I threatened to show him up (expose him).
- All eyes turned to him because he was the only person who could stave off (prevent, avert) the impending war.
- He is sticking out for (persists in demanding) better terms.
- I must think the matter over (i.e., consider it).
- Train up (educate) a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it.
- That fellow trumped up (concocted, fabricated) a story.
- He seems to be well off (in comfortable circumstances).

## BEAR

- Satish bore away (won) many prizes at the school sports.
- The new Sultan has been able to bear down (overthrow, crush) all opposition.
- His evidence bears out (confirms, corroborates), the evidence of the first witness.
- In his misfortune God gave him strength to bear up (to keep up spirits, not to despair).
- A religious hope bears up (supports) a man in his trials.
- His evidence did not bear upon (was not relevant to) the inquiry.
- I trust you will bear with (have patience with, show forbearance to) me a few minutes more.

## BREAK

- He broke down (failed) in the middle of his speech.
- He broke off (stopped suddenly) in the middle of his story.
- I gave him no cause to break with (quarrel with) me.
- The burglars broke into (entered by force) the house.

## BRING

- His folly has brought about (caused) his ruin.
- Idleness and luxury bring forth (produce, cause) poverty and want.
- He brought forward (adduced) several cogent arguments in support of his scheme.
- That building brings in (yields as rent) Rs.700 a month.
- Our teacher often tells us a story to bring out (show) the meaning of a lesson.
- The publishers have recently brought out (published) a cheap edition of their new dictionary.
- He found great difficulty in bringing her round (converting her) to his views.
- She brought up (reared) the orphan as her own child.

## CALL

- His master called for (demanded) an explanation of his conduct.
- New responsibilities often call out (draw forth) virtues and abilities unsuspected before.
- Call in (summon, send for) a doctor immediately.
- He called on me (paid me a brief visit) yesterday.
- The old man could not call up (recollect) past events.

## CARRY

- He agreed to carry out (execute) my orders.
- His passion carried him away (i.e., deprived him of self control).
- His son carried on (managed) his business in his absence.
- Many persons were carried off (killed) by plague.

## CAST

- The ship was cast away (wrecked) on the coast of Africa.
- He was much cast down (depressed) by his loss.
- Some snakes cast off (throw away) their outer skins seasonally.

## COME

- How did these things come about (happen)?
- How did you come by (get) this purse ?
- When does the Convocation come off (take place)?
- At last the truth has come out (transpired).
- The taxes come to (amount to) a large sum.
- The question came up (was mooted or raised for discussion) before the Municipal Corporation last week.
- I expect he will come round (recover) within a week.
- I hope he will come round (agree) to our views.

## CRY

- Men of dissolute lives cry down (depreciate) religion, because they would not be under the restraints of it.
- He cried out against (protested against) such injustice.
- That young author is cried up (extolled) by his friends.

## CUT

- He was cut off (died) in the prime of life.
- You must cut down (reduce) your expenditure.
- He is cut out for (specially fitted to be) a sailor.
- His wife's death cut him up (affected him, distressed him) terribly.

## DO

- I am done for (ruined).
- Having walked twenty miles, he is quite done up (fatigued, exhausted).
- She has done up (decorated, furnished) her apartment beautifully.

## FALL

- At last the rioters fell back (retreated, yielded).
- At my friend's tea party I fell in with (met accidentally) a strange fellow.
- The measure falls in with (happens to meet) the popular demand.
- The scheme has fallen through (failed) for want of support.
- I am told the two brothers have fallen out (quarrelled).
- It is said that the standard of efficiency in public service has recently fallen off (deteriorated)
- In the second school term the attendance fell off (diminished).

## GET

- His friends expected that he would get off (escape) with a fine.
- It is hard to get on with (agree or live sociably with) a suspicious man.
- The thief got away (escaped) with my cash box.
- I can't get out (remove) this stain.
- The revolt of the tribal chiefs has been got under (subdued).
- The dog tried to get at (attack) me.
- He has got through (passed) his examination.
- They soon got the fire under (under control) by pouring buckets of water over it.
- You were lucky to get out of (escape from) his clutches.

## GIVE

- We are credibly informed that the murderer has given himself up (surrendered himself) to the police.
- The doctors have given him up (i.e. have no hope of his recovery).
- Soon after it was given forth (published) and believed by many, that the King was dead.
- The fire gave off (emitted) a dense smoke.
- The strikers seem determined and are not likely to give in (submit, yield).
- It was given out (published, proclaimed) that he was a bankrupt.
- The horses gave out (were exhausted) at the next milestone.
- The rope gave way (broke, snapped) while the workmen were hauling up the iron pillar
- He would not listen to me at first but at last he gave way (yielded).
- The Governor gave away (distributed, presented) the prizes.
- Give over (abandon) this foolish attempt.
- In his cross examination he ultimately gave himself away (betrayed himself)

## GO

- You cannot always go by (judge from) appearances.
- It is a good rule to go by (to be guided by) the exact procedure.
- He promised to go into (examine, investigate) the matter.
- Have you anything to go upon (i.e. any foundation for your statement)?
- We have no data to go upon (on which to base our conclusions).
- The story won't go down (be believed).
- The concept went off well (was a success).
- The auditor went over (examined) the balance sheet.
- The poor woman has gone through (suffered) much.
- I must first go through (examine) the accounts.

## HOLD

- The rebels held out (offered resistance) for about a month.
- He holds out (gives) no promise of future prospects.
- They were held up (stopped) on the highway and robbed by bandits.
- The subject is held over (deferred, postponed) till the next meeting.

## KEEP

- A few boys were kept in (confined) after school hours.
- I was kept in (confined to the house) by a bad cold.
- They kept up (carried on) a long conversation.
- Little disputes and quarrels are chiefly kept up (maintained) by those who have nothing else to do.
- He is trying his best to keep up (maintain) the reputation of his family.
- The rubber syndicate keeps up (maintains) the price.
- She kept on (continued) talking.
- I shall keep back (conceal) nothing from you.

## KNOCK

- He has knocked about (wandered about) the world a great deal.
- The dressing table was knocked down (sold at an auction) for fifty rupees.
- We were greatly knocked up (exhausted) after our steep climb.

## LAY

- The rebels laid down (surrendered) their arms.
- He had laid out (invested) a large sum in railway shares.
- Foolish people, who do not lay out (spend) their money carefully, soon come to grief.
- He is laid up (confined to his bed) with fever.
- He resolved to lay by (save for future needs) a part of his income.

## LET

- I was let into (made acquainted with) her secret.
- This being his first offence he was let off (punished leniently) with a fine.

## LOOK

- His uncle looks after (takes care of) him.
- He looks down upon (despises) his poor cousins.
- Look up (search for) the word in the dictionary.
- The old man is looking forward to (expecting with pleasure) the visit of his grandchildren.
- I will look into (investigate) the matter.
- I look on (regard) him as my son.
- Some look to (rely on) legislation to hasten the progress of social reforms.
- Look to (be careful about) your manners.
- Prices of piece goods are looking up (rising).
- Things are looking up (improving).
- His friends look up to (respect) him.
- He will not look at (i.e. will reject) your offer.

## MAKE

- Contentment makes for (conduces to) happiness.
- He made over (presented, gave in charity) his bungalow to the Islam Orphanage.
- I cannot make out (discover) the meaning of this verse.
- I cannot make out (read, decipher) his handwriting.
- You have failed to make out (prove) your case.
- Some time ago the two brothers quarrelled but they have now made it up (become reconciled).

## PASS

- He generally passed by (overlooked) the faults of his subordinates.
- The crew of the boat passed through (underwent) terrible sufferings.
- He passes for (is regarded as) a great Sanskritist.

## PICK

- The Committee picked out (selected) the best players for the team.
- He lost twenty pounds in sickness but is now picking up (regaining or recovering health).

## PULL

- Unless we pull together (co-operate, work together in harmony) we cannot succeed.
- My cousin pulled through (passed with difficulty) the examination.
- The doctor says the patient will pull through (recover from his illness).
- It is far easier to pull down (demolish) than to build up.
- He was pulled up (scolded, rebuked) by the President.

## PUT

- He puts on (assumes) an air of dignity.
- Please put out (extinguish) the light.
- He was put out (vexed, annoyed) when I refused his request for a loan.
- The plaintiff was put out (disconcerted) when the suit was dismissed.
- He tried to put me off (evade me, satisfy me) with promises.
- He has put in (made, sent in) a claim for compensation.

- While travelling I had to put up with (endure) a good deal of discomfort.
- I cannot put up with (tolerate) his insolence.
- They put him up to (incited him to) mischief.
- I am sorry to put you to (give you) so much trouble.
- He put off (postponed) his departure for a week.
- The measure was put through (passed) without opposition.

## RUN

- On account of overwork he is run down (enfeebled).
- He always runs down (disparages) his rivals.
- The lease of our premises has run out (expired, come to an end).
- He has run through (squandered away) his fortune.
- The tailor's bill has run up to (amounted to) a large amount.
- He has run into (incurred) debt.
- While turning the corner I ran against (chanced to meet) an old friend.
- Recently my expenses have run up (increased) considerably.
- The cistern is running over (overflowing).

## SEE

- I saw through (detected) the trick.
- It is hard to see into (discern) his motive.
- His friends were present at the station to see him off (witness his departure).

## SET

- The High Court set aside (annulled) the decree of the lower court.
- He immediately set about (took steps towards) organizing the department.
- He set off (started) for Peshawar early this morning.
- The frame sets off the picture (i.e., enhances its beauty by contrast).
- He has set up (started business) as a banker.
- I have enough capital to set me up (establish myself) in trade.
- He hired a palatial bungalow and set up for (pretended to be) a millionaire.
- I was obliged to set him down (snub him).
- You may set down (charge) this loss to me.
- Who set you on (instigated you) to do it.
- These seats are set apart (reserved) for ladies.
- In his speech on prohibition, he set forth (explained, made known his views) at length.
- The robbers set upon (attacked) the defenceless travellers.
- Winter in England sets in (begins) about December.

## SPEAK

- In Bombay there is no free library to speak of (worth mentioning).
- I was determined to speak out (express my opinion freely).

## STAND

- They are determined to stand up for (vindicate, maintain) their rights.
- Let this matter stand over (be deferred or postponed) for the present.

- It is hard but I think I can stand it out (endure it to the end without yielding).
- He is always standing up for (championing the cause of) the weak and oppressed.
- We shall be formidable if we stand by (support) one another.

### **STRIKE**

- He is struck down with (attacked by) paralysis.
- The Medical Council struck off (removed) his name from the register of medical practitioners.
- While we were planning a family picnic, my sister struck in (interrupted) with the suggestion that we invite our neighbour's children as well.

### **TAKE**

- The piano takes up (occupies) too much room.
- It would take up (occupy) too much time to tell you the whole story.
- He takes after (resembles) his father.
- At present I am reading the essays of Bacon but it is sometimes.
- It is difficult to take in (comprehend, understand) his meaning.
- Recently he has taken to (become addicted to) opium eating.
- Finally, he was talked into saying (convinced) yes to the proposal.

### **TALK**

- We talked over (discussed) the matter for an hour.
- I hope to talk him over (convince him by talking) to our view.

### **TELL**

- I am afraid your antecedents will tell against you (i.e. prove unfavourable to you).
- The strain is telling upon him (affecting his health).

### **THROW**

- My advice was thrown away (wasted) upon him, because he ignored it.
- The bill was thrown out (rejected) by the Assembly.
- In disgust he threw up (resigned) his appointment.
- When he became rich he threw over (abandoned or deserted) all his old friends.

### **TURN**

- The factory turns out (produces, manufactures) 20,000 lbs of cloth a day.
- If he is lazy, why don't you turn him off (dismiss him) ?
- He turned out (proved) to be a scholar.
- His very friends turned against (became hostile to) him.
- Who can say what will turn up (happen) next ?
- He promised to come but he never turned up (appeared).

### **WORK**

- We tempted him with many promises but nothing would work on (influence) him.
- He worked out (solved) the problem in a few minutes.
- He is sure to work up (excite) the mob.
- He worked upon (influenced) the ignorant villagers.



# Roots

*The following is a list of some of the most important roots of English words.*

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
ACRO	height, high, tip, end	acrophobia, acrobat, acronym, acropolis
AGR	field, land	agriculture, agrarian, agronomy, peregrinator
ALG, ALGOS	pain	nostalgia, analgesic, neuralgia, cardialgia
ALI	another	alias, alien, unalienable, alienate
ALT	tall, high	altitude, alto, altimeter, exalt
ALTER, ALTR	other	alternate, alternative, alter ego, altruism
AMA, AMI	love	amateur, amiable, amicable, amorous
AMBUL	walk	amble, ambulatory, somnambulist, perambulator
ANGLE, ANGUL	corner	angle, rectangle, quadrangle, triangular
ANNUS	year	anniversary, annual, biannual, annuity
ANTHROPO	man, humankind	anthropology, misanthrope, philanthropist, anthropopathism
AQUA	water	aquarium, aquatic, aquamarine, aqueduct
ARCH	chief	architect, monarch, archbishop, hierarchy
ARCH, ARCHE	ancient, first	archaeology, archaic, archive, archetype
ARM	weapon	armor, armory, armistice, armada
ASTER, ASTRO	star	asterisk, disaster, astronomy, astronaut
ATHL, ATHION	prize, contest	athlete, athletic, decathlon, pentathlon
AUD	hear	auditorium, audience, audition, audible
AUTO	self	autobiography, autocracy, autonomy, autograph
AVI	bird	aviator, aviary, aviculture, avicide
BARO	weight	barometer, barograph, baroscope, isobar
BELLI	war	belligerent, bellicose, post-bellum, ante-bellum
BENE	good, well	benediction, benefit, beneficiary
BIBL	book	Bible, Biblical, bibliography, bibliophile
BIO	life	biology, biography, biopsy, antibiotic
BREV	short	brevity, breviary, abbreviate, breve
BRONCH	windpipe	bronchitis, bronchial, bronchotomy, bronchopneumonia
BURSA	bag, purse	bursar, bursitis, reimburse, disburse
CAMERA	vault, chamber	bicameral, camera, unicameral, cameral
CAND	glow, white, pure	candle, candidate, candelabra, incandescent
CANT	song	canto, incantation, canticle, cantor
CAP	head	cap, captain, capital (city), decapitate
CAPT	take, receive	capture, captivity, captivate, captor
CARDI	heart	electrocardiogram, cardiac, cardiograph, cardiectomy
CARN	flesh	chili con carne, incarnation, carnivorous, carnal
CAV	hollow	cave, cavern, concave, excavate
CED, CEED	go, yield	precede, recede, accede, antecedent
CENS	judge	ensor, censorship, census, censure
CEPT	take, receive, catch	reception, conception, accept, receptive
CHOREIA, CHORUS	dancing	choreography, chorus, chorister, Terpsichore
CHRON	time	anachronism, chronicle, chronic, chronological
CIDE	kill	suicide, fratricide, herbicide, genocide
CIRC	ring, around	circle, circus, circuitous, circuit
CIV	citizen	civilization, civil, civility, civic
CLAIM	shout	acclaim, exclaim, declaim, proclaim
CLAM	shout	exclamation, proclamation, acclamation, clamor
CLAR	clear	clarify, declarative, declaration, clarity

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
CLASS	class, group	classify, classical, classic, declassify
CLIN	lean	declination, decline, recline, incline
CLUD	shut	include, preclude, exclude, seclude
CLUS	shut	conclusive, exclusive, seclusion, inclusion
COGN	know	recognize, cognitive, cognizant, incognito
COLO, CULT	cultivate, settle	colony, agriculture, culture, cultivate
COMMUN	common	community, commune, communicate, communicable
CORNU	horn	unicorn, cornucopia, bicorn, cornet
CORP	body	corporation, corps, corpuscle, corpulent
COSM	order, universe	cosmopolitan, microcosm, cosmos, macrocosm
CRACY, CRAT	rule	aristocracy, democratic, bureaucrat, plutocrat
CRED	believe	creditor, credulous, credentials, credibility
CRIM	judge, accuse	crime, criminal, incriminate, discriminate
CRIT	separate, judge	critic, criticize, criterion, critical
CRYPT	secret	cryptic, crypt, cryptogram, cryptography
CULP	fault, blame	culpable, exculpate, culprit, inculcate
CUM	pile up	accumulate, cumulative, cumulate, cumulus
CUMB, CUB	lie, recline	incubate, incumbent, succumb, incumbency
CUR, COUR	run	course, courier, current, excursion
CUR	care	cure, manicure, accurate, curator
CYCL	ring, circle	bicycle, cyclic, cyclone, cyclist
DAT	give	data, postdate, mandate, antedate
DEB	owe	debt, indebted, debtor, debit
DECOR	proper, fitting	decoration, decor, indecorous, decorum
DEI	god	deity, deify, deiform, deism
DEMOS	people	democracy, epidemic, demography, demagogue
DENT	tooth	dentist, dental, dentifrice, trident
DERM	skin	hypodermic, dermatology, dermatitis, epidermis
DIA, DIE	day	diary, per diem, sine die, dismal
DIC, DICT	say	dictate, predict, verdict, contradict
DIGN	worth	dignity, dignitary, condign, dignify
DIV	separate	divide, divisor, divisive, dividend
DO	give	donate, donor, condone, donee
DOC	teach	doctor, doctrine, indoctrinate, documentary
DORM	sleep	dormitory, dormant, dormer, dormancy
DOXA	belief, praise	unorthodox heterodoxy, orthodoxy, paradox
DUC	lead	conduct, abduct, aqueduct, seduce
DUR	hard	durable, endurable, endure, duress
DYN	power	dynamite, dynamic, dynasty, dynamo
EGO	I	egotistic, ego, egocentric, egomania
EM, EMPT	buy, obtain	exempt, caveat emptor, redemption, preempt
EMIA, HEMIA	blood	anemia, leukemia, hemostat, hemorrhage
ENNI	year	biennial, centennial, perennial, bicentennial
EQU	equal, even, just	equality, equator, inequity, equation
ERG	work	energy, erg, energy, synergy
ERR	wander	err, error, erratic, erroneous
ESTH	feeling	esthetic, anesthetic, esthete, anesthetist
FAC	make, do	manufacture, factory, benefactor, facsimile
FALL, FALS	deceive	fallacy, infallible, falsify, false
FEMINA	woman	female, feminine, feminist, effeminate
FER	carry, bear	transfer, refer, infer, melliferous
FIC	do, make	efficient, beneficial, sufficient, proficient
FID	faith	confide, fidelity, infidel, bona fide
FILI	son, daughter	filial, affiliate, filicide, affiliation

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
FIN	end	final, finite, infinite, finale
FIRM	steady	confirm, infirm, affirm, confirmation
FIX	fasten	suffix, affix, fixture, prefix
FLAM	blaze	flame, inflammable, flammable, flamboyant
FLECT	bend	reflect, reflector, deflect, inflection
FLEX	bend	reflex, flexible, flex, circumflex
FLOR	flower	flora, floral, efflorescent, florist
FLU	flow	fluid, fluent, influx, affluent
FOL	leaf	portfolio, foliage, folio, defoliate
FORM	shape	uniform, reform, formation, transform
FORT	strong	fort, fortify, fortification, fortitude
FRACT, FRAG	break	fraction, fracture, fragment, fragile
FRAT	brother	fraternity, fraternal, fraternize, fratricide
FRU	enjoy	fruit, fruitful, fructify, fruition
FUG	flee	fugitive, refuge, refugee, centrifugal
FUNCT	perform	functional, malfunction, defunct, dysfunction
FUS	pour	transfusion, fusion, diffuse, profuse
GAM	marriage	monogamy, bigamy, trigamy, polygamy
GEN	race, birth	generation, progeny, genetics, genocide
GEO	earth	geography, geology, apogee, perigee
GNOS	know	agnostic, diagnose, diagnostic, prognosticate
GON	angle	trigonometry, octagonal, polygon, pentagon
GRAD	step	degrade, graduation, gradation, retrograde
GRAM	letter, written	monogram, telegram, grammar, epigram
GRAN	grain	grain, granary, grange, granulated
GRAPH	write	autograph, paragraph, graphite, biography
GRAT	please, thank	grateful, congratulate, gratis, gratitude
GREG	herd	congregation, gregarious, aggregate, desegregate
GYN	woman	monogyny, polygyny, gynecologist, misogynist
HEDR	side, seat	polyhedron, tetrahedron, cathedral, ex cathedra
HELI	sun	helium, heliotrope, heliocentric, heliograph
HOM	man	homage, homo sapiens, homicide, hombre
HOMO	same	homogenized, homonym, homograph, homophone
HUM	earth, soil	humus, humiliate, exhume, inhume
HYDR	water	hydrant, hydrogen, hydrophobia, dehydrate
IATRIK, IATRO	healing art	pediatrician, psychiatric, geriatrics, podiatry
IDENT	same	identify, identical, identification, identity
IDIO	peculiar	idiot, idiom, idiomatic, idiosyncrasy
IGN	fire	ignite, ignition, igneous, ignitron
IMPERI	command	imperative, empire, emperor, imperious
INSUL	island	peninsula, insulate, insularity, insular
INTEG	whole untouched	integrity, integrate, integral, integer
IR	anger	irritate, irate, ire, irascible
IT	go	exit, initiate, obit
JECT	throw	project, inject, reject, eject
JOCUS	joke	joke, jocose, jocular, jocund
JOURN	daily	journal, journalism, journey, sojourn
JU, JUD	law, right	judge, judicial, judgment, judicious
JUNCT	join	junction, conjunction, juncture, adjunct
JUR	law, right	jury, perjury, jurisdiction, jurisprudence
JUS	law, right	just, justice, injustice, justification
LABOR	work	collaborate, laboratory, elaborate, laborious
LAPS	slip	elapse, relapse, lapse, collapse
LAT	side	lateral, unilateral, bilateral, quadrilateral

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
LECT	gather, choose	collect, elect, select, electoral
LECT, LEG	read	lectern, legend, legible, illegible
LEG	law, contract	legal, delegate, legitimate, legislate
LEV	raise, lift	elevator, leverage, lever, levee
LIBER	free	liberty, liberate, libertarian, liberal
LIBR	book	library, librarian, librettist, libretto
LINGU	tongue	lingual, linguistics, linguist, bilingual
LITERA	letter	literature, literary, illiterate, literal
LITH	stone	monolith, paleolithic, neolithic, lithograph
LOC	place	local, location, dislocate, localize
LOCU	speak	locution, elocution, circumlocution, interlocutor
LOG, LOGUE, LOGY	speech	dialogue, prologue, epilogue, eulogy
LOP	run, leap	elope, interloper, elopement, lope
LOQU	speak	eloquence, soliloquy, colloquial, loquacious
LU	wash	deluge, antediluvian, ablution, dilute
LUC	light	lucid, translucent, elucidate, Lucifer
LUD	play	interlude, prelude, postlude, ludicrous
LUNA	moon	lunar, lunatic, translunar
MAGNI	great	magnify, magnitude, magnanimity, magnificent
MAL	bad	malice, malady, malign, malignant
MAN	hand	manual, manuscript, manipulate, manicure
MAND	order	command, demand, mandatory, mandate
MARE	sea	marine, submarine, mariner, maritime
MATER, MATRI	mother, source	maternal, maternity, alma mater, matron
MED	middle	medium, mediate, medieval, mediocre
MEMORIA	memory	commemorate, memorize, memorandum, memorial
MENT	mind	mental, demented, mentality, memento
MERG	plunge, dip	merge, submerge, merger, emerge
METER	measure	diameter, barometer, altimeter, perimeter
METR	measure	metric, geometric, isometric, symmetrical
MIGR	move	migrate, emigrate, immigrant, migratory
MIL	soldier	militant, military, militia, militate
MIM	imitate	mimic, mimeograph, pantomime, mime
MISER	wretched, pity	miserable, miser, misery, commiserate
MISS	send, let go	mission, missionary, missive, missile
MNEM	memory	amnesia, mnemonic, amnesty, Mnemosyne
MOB	move	automobile, mobile, immobile, mobility
MON	advise, warn	admonish, monitor, admonition, premonition
MOR	custom	moral, morality, morals, mores
MORT	death	mortal, immortal, mortality, mortician
MOT	move	motion, motor, promote, demote
MOV	move	move, movable, remove, movie
MUT	change, exchange	mutual, commute, mutuality, mutation
NAT	born	native, nativity, natal, innate
NAUS, NAUT	ship	nausea, nautical, nautilus, aquanaut
NAV	ship	navy, navigate, naval, circumnavigate
NES	island	Indonesia, Polynesian, Micronesia, Dodecanese
NOM	law, arrangement	astronomy, economy, autonomy, taxonomy
NOMEN	name	nomenclature, denomination, nominative, nominate
NOV	new	novel, novelty, novice, innovate
NUMER	number	numeral, numerator, numerous, enumerate
OCUL	eye	ocular, oculist, binoculars, monocular
ONYM	name	antonym, synonym, homonym, acronym
OP, OPT	sight	myopic, optic, optometrist, optical

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
ORARE	speak, pray	oral, oracle, orator, oratory
OSS, OSTEO	bone	ossify, osteopath, osteomyelitis, osteotomy
OV	egg	oval, ovum, ovary, oviparous
PAED, PED	child, teach	encyclopedia, pedantic, pedagogue, pediatrician
PAR	give birth	parent, parentage, biparous, viviparous
PAR	equal, compare	compare, comparable, parable, parity
PAST	shepherd	pastor, pastoral, pasture
PATER, PATR	father	paternal, patriarch, patriot, repatriation
PATH	feel, suffer	sympathy, empathy, pathos, antipathy
PED	foot	pedal, pedestrian, biped, centipede
PEL	drive	repel, dispel, expel, propel
PEN, PUN	punishment	penal, penitentiary, penalize, punitive
PEND, PENS	hang	pendulum, appendage, suspend, appendix
PETR	rock	petrify, petroleum, petrification, petrol
PHAG	eat	esophagus, dysphagia, sarcophagus, anthropophagi
PHIL	love	philharmonic, philosopher, philatelist, Philadelphia
PHOBOS	fear	Phobos, agoraphobia, claustrophobia, acrophobia
PHON	sound	phone, symphony, phonics, telephone
PHOR	to carry	euphoria, dysphoria, metaphor, semaphore
PHOTO	light	photocell, photosynthesis, photography, photostatic
PLAC	please	placate, placid, complacent, placebo
PNE	air, lung, breathe	pneumatic, pneumonia, apnea,
PD, PUS	foot	bipod, tripod, chiroprapist, octopus
POLI, POLIT	city	acropolis, metropolis, politics, politician
PORT	carry	transport, import, export, deport
PORTA	gate	port, seaport, portal, Puerto [Porto] Rico
POS	place, set	depose, deposit, preposition, apposition
PTER	wing, feather	helicopter, pterodactyl, pterosaur, lepidopterous
PULS	drive, push	repulse, expulsion, compulsory, propulsion
QUER, QUEST, QUIR	seek, ask	query, questionnaire, inquest, inquire
RECT	straight, right	correct, rectify, erect, rectangle
REFERRE	carry back	refer, reference, referendum, referent
REG, REGN	rule	regal, regime, regency, interregnum
RID, RIS	laugh	deride, ridiculous, ridicule, derision
ROD, ROS	gnaw	rodent, erode, corrode, erosion
ROGARE	ask, request	interrogate, interrogative, prerogative, abrogate
ROTA	wheel, round	rotate, rotary, rotunda, rotor
RUPT	to break	rupture, erupt, interrupt, disrupt
SACR	holy	sacrifice, sacrament, sacred, sacrilege
SAN	healthy, sound	sane, sanity, sanitation, sanitarium
SANCT	holy	sanctuary, sanctity, sanctify, sanctimonious
SAT, SATIS	enough	satiety, saturate, insatiable, satisfy
SAUR	lizard	dinosaur, tyrannosaurus, sauropod, brontosaurus
SCEND, SCEN	climb	descend, ascend, transcend, ascension
SCHOLE	leisure, school	school, scholastic, scholarship, scholar
SCI	know	science, conscious, scientific, omniscient
SCOPE	to watch	telescope, microscope, periscope, kaleidoscope
SCRIB, SCRIPT	write	describe, inscribe, manuscript, inscription
SEC, SECT	cut	dissect, bisect, insect, intersect
SED, SESS, SID	sit, settle	sedative, sedentary, session, preside
SEMIN	seed	seminary, disseminate, seminarian, seminar
SEN	old	senator, senior, seniority, senile
SENS, SENT	feel	sensitive, sensation, assent, dissent
SEPS, SEPT	decay	antiseptic, septic, aseptic, septicemia

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
SEQU	follow	sequence, subsequent, sequel, consequently
SERV	save, keep	reservoir, reservation, preservation, conservation
SERVUS	slave, server	service, servitude, subservient, servile
SEXUS	division, sex	sex, sexual, sexism, bisexual
SIGNI	mark, sign	signify, signal, signature, insignia
SIMIL, SIMUL	like, same	similarity, simile, simultaneous, simulate
SOL	alone	solitude, solitary, desolate, soliloquy
SOLIDUS	solid	solid, solidarity, consolidate, solidify
SOLU, SOLV	loosen, free	soluble, dissolve, solvent, absolve
SOMN	sleep	insomnia, insomniac, somnambulist, somnolent
SON	sound	unison, sonorous, dissonant, subsonic
SOPH	wise	philosopher, sophisticated, sophomoric, sophistry
SPEC, SPECT	look	spectator, spectacular, spectacle, prospect
SPHER	ball, sphere	atmosphere, hemisphere, stratosphere, spherical
SPIR	breathe, live	conspirator, inspire, respiration, expire
SPOND, SPONS	answer	respond, respondent, correspondent, responsive
STA	stand	stationary, standard, stability, stagnant
STRU	build	construct, structure, instruct, structural
STUDEO	be eager	student, studious, study, studio
SURG, SURR	rise	surge, resurgence, resurrection, insurrection
SYLLABA	take together	syllable, syllabus, syllabify, syllabification
TABL, TABULA	board, tablet	table, tablet, entablature, tabular
FACT, TANG	touch	intact, tangent, tangible, intangible
TAIN, TEN	hold	attain, retain, detain, tenacious
TACT, TAX	to arrange, order	tactics, syntactical, syntax, taxidermist
TELE	distant	telephone, telegraph, telescope, television
TEMP	time, season	temporary, contemporary, temporal, extemporaneous
TEND, TENS, TENT	tend, stretch	extend, tendon, tensile, extent
TERRERE	to frighten	terrify, terror, terrorist, terrible
TESTARE	to witness	testify, testimony, testament, intestate
THANATOS	death	thanatophobia, thanatopsis, euthanasia, Thanatos
THE	god	theism, atheist, theology, monotheism
THERMO	heat	thermos, thermometer, thermal, thermostat
TOM	cut	appendectomy, tonsillectomy, neurectomy, anatomy
TOPOS	place, spot	topical, topography, utopia, topology
TORT	twist, turn	distort, extort, retort, torture
TOX	poison	toxin, antitoxin, toxic, intoxication
TRACT	pull, draw, drag	attract, tractor, distract, extract
TRUD	thrust	intrude, protrude, extrude, obtrude
TUITUS	watch over	tuition, tutorial, tutelage, tutor
TURB	whirling, turmoil	turbine, turbid, turbulent, perturb
ULTIMUS	last	antepenult, ultimate, penult, ultimatum
UMBER, UMBRA	shade, shadow	umbra, umbrella, adumbrate, penumbra
UNDA	wave	undulate, inundate, abundant, redundant
URB	city	urban, urbane, suburb, suburban
VACA, VACU	empty, hollow	vacate, vacant, vacuum, evacuate
VAD, VAS	go	invade, evade, pervade, evasive
VAG	wander	vagrant, vagrancy, vagabond, extravagant
VAL	strong, worth	valid, equivalent, invalid, valetudinarian
VAN	front, forward	vanguard, van, avant-garde, vantage point
VAPOR	steam	vapor, vaporous, vaporizer, evaporate
VARI	different, various	vary, variant, variety, variegated
VEN	come	convention, convent, intervention, convene
VEN	sale	vend, vendor, venal, caveat vendor

ROOT	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
VEN	vein	vein, venous, intravenous, venule
VER	true	verdict, verify, veracity, verification
VER, VERER	fear, awe	reverence, reverend, revere, irreverent
VERB	word	verb, adverb, proverb, verbatim
VERS, VERT	turn	reverse, inverse, divert, invert
VESPER	evening	vespers, Vesper, Hesperus, vespertilionid
VEST	clothing	vest, vestment, divest, investiture
VETER	old, experienced	vet, veteran, veterinary, veterinarian
VIA	way	viaduct, trivial, trivia, deviate
VICT	conquer	victory, evict, victorious, victor
VID	see	video, providence, evident, videotape
VIS	see	vision, visualize, visible, supervision
VIT	live	vitamin, vitality, vital, revitalize
VIV	live	survive, revive, vivid, vivacious
VOC, VOKE	call	vocal, vocabulary, avocation, evoke
VOL	wish, will	volunteer, benevolent, malevolent, involuntary
VOL, VOLV	roll, turn	revolt, revolve, evolve, revolver
VOR	eat	devour, voracious, carnivorous, herbivorous
XYLO	wood	
ZO	animal	zoo, zoologist, protozoan, zodiac

# Affixes

***An affix is a syllable put at the beginning or end of a word or root, to change its meaning. A prefix comes at the beginning of a word; a suffix comes at the end of a word. Following are lists of some of the most important prefixes and suffixes used in English.***

## PREFIXES

PREFIX	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
a -	on	ashore, aboard, afire, atop
a-, an-	not, without	atom, aseptic, anemia
ab-	from	absent, abduct, abdicate, abnormal
ad-	to	adhere, adjoin adverb, adjunct
ambi-	both, around	ambidextrous, ambiguous, ambivalent, ambient
amphi-	both, around	amphibious, amphitheater, amphipod, amphora
ante-	before	anteroom, anterior, antecedent, antechamber
anti-	against	antifreeze, antidote, antislavery, antiseptic
apo-	away from, from	apogee, apostle, apostasy, apocryphal
auto-	self	autograph, automobile, automatic, autobiography
bene-	well, good	benefit, beneficial, benediction, benefactor
bi-, bin-, bis-	two, twice	bicycle, binocular, bigamy, biceps
cent-	hundred	century, centigrade, centimeter, centennial
circu-	around, about	circus, circuit, circa, circular
circum -	around	circumnavigate, circumpolar, circumference, circumlocution
co-	with, together	co-worker, cooperator, coincident, coalition
col-	together, with	collect, collaborate, collate, colleague
com-	together, with	companion, compost, compact, compose
con-	together, with	connect, concentrate, conference, congress
contra-, contro-	against	contrast, contradict, contrary, controversy
counter-	against, in return, counterrevolution	counterclockwise, counteract, counterbalance,
de -	down	descend, degrade, depress, dejected
de-	away	deflect, deter, detract, dehydrate
dec-	ten	decade, decimal, December, decathlon
deci-	tenth	decimal, decimate, decibel, decimeter
demi-, hemi-, semi -	half, partly	demigod, hemisphere, semiliterate semiconscious
di-	two	diphthong, dioxide, digraph, dilemma
dia-	through, between	diameter, diagonal, dialogue, diagnosis
dis-	not	dishonest, distrustful, discontent, disobey
dis-	apart from	dismiss, discard, disarm, dislocate
dis-	opposite	disarrange, discomfort, disconnect, disown
du-	two	dual, duet, duplex, duplicate
dys-	bad	dyspepsia, dysfunction, dysentery, dystrophy
e-	out	eject, emit, erupt, elevate
en-	in	encircle, enfold, encase, enslave
endo-	inside, within	endoderm, endocrine, endocarp, endogamy
epi-	upon, in addition	epilogue, epidermis, epitaph, epidemic
eu-	well, good	eulogy, euphemism, euphoria, euphonious
ex-	out	exit, extract, exclude, excerpt
extra-	outside, beyond	extramural, extravagant, extraordinary, extradite
hept-, sept-	seven	heptagon, heptarchy, septennial, September
hetero-	different	heteronym, heterogeneous, heterodox, heterosexual
homo-	same	homonym, homogeneous, homogenesis, homologous
hyper-	over, beyond	hypersensitive, hyperbole, hyperacidity, hypertension



PREFIX	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
hypo-	under, too	hypoactive, hypochondriac, hypodermic, hypotenuse
il-	not	illegal, illogical, illegible, illiterate
im-	into	immerse, immigrate, implant, impale
im-	not	immovable, immobile, immaculate, impartial
in-	into	intake, inhale, include, incision
in-	not	inactive, incorrect, indecent, informal
infra-	below	infrared, inhuman, infraglacial, infrastructure
inter-	between, among	international, interurban, intermission, interjection
intra-, intro-	within	intramural, introduce, introvert, introspective
ir-	not	irregular, irreverent, irrational, irrelevant
iso-	equal, same	isobar, isometric, isotope, isosceles
kilo-	1,000	kilocycle, kilogram, kilometer, kilowatt
macro-	large, long	macron, macroscopic, macrometer, macrocosm
mega-	large	megalomania, megaphone, megalith, megaton
meta-	change	metaphor, metamorphic, metabolism, metastasis
meta-	beyond	metaphysics, metapsychosis, metabiological, metachrome
micro-	small	microscopic, microphone, micrometer, microfilm
milli-	1/1,000	millimeter, milligram, millisecond, milliwatt
mis-	wrong	misspell, misdeed, misinterpret, misbehave
mono-	one	monarch, monocle, monorail, monotone
multi-	many	multitude, multimillionaire, multicolored, multilateral
neo-	new, modern	neologism, neophyte, neolithic, neonate
non-	not	nonstop, nonsense, nonentity, nonpolitical
non-, novem-	nine	nonagon, November, novena, novennial
ob-	against, opposite	objection, obstacle, obstruct, obverse
octa-, octo-	eight	octagon, octopus, October, octogenarian
olig-	few	oligarchy, oligopoly, oligochrome, oligocarpous
omni-	all	omnipotent, omnivorous, omniscient, omnibus
pan-	all	pandemonium, Pan-American, pandemic, panorama
para-	beside	paragraph, parallel, parasite, paraphrase
pen-, pene-	almost	peninsula, penannular, penultimate, peneplain
penta-	five	pentagon, Pentecost, pentameter, pentad
per-	throughout, thoroughly	pervade, perpetual, permanent, perforate
peri-	around, near, about	periscope, perimeter, periphery, perigee
poly-	many	polygon, polysyllable, polygamy, polytheism
post-	after	postscript, postpone, postdate, posterity
pre-	before	predict, presume, precede, premeditate
pro-	before	prognosis, program, progenitor, prophesy
pro-	in place of	pronoun, pronominal, proconsul, proconsulate
pro-	forward	project, propel, progress, promenade
pro-	in favour of	proslavery, pro-American, pro-liberal, proponent
pro-	in front	prologue, proboscis, program, proseminar
proto-	first	protozoa, prototype, protoplasm, protocol
pseudo-	false	pseudonym, pseudopod, pseudo-event, pseudoscience
quad-, quart-, quatr-	four	quadruplet, quadruped, quarter, quatrain
quasi-	seemingly, partly, as if	quasi-humorous, quasi-historical, quasi-judicial,
	quasi-legislative	
quin-	five	quintet, quintuplet, quintuple, quintessence
re-	back	refund, retract, repay, remit
re-	again	reread, rearrange, rediscover, reabsorb
retro-	back	retrorocket, retroactive, retrograde, retrospection
semi-	half	semicircle, semiannual, semiconscious, semifinals
sept-	seven	September, septennial, septet, septuagenarian
sesqui-	one and a half	sesquilateral, sesquicentennial, sesquioxide, sesquipedalian

PREFIX	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
sex-, hex-	six	sextet, sextuplet, hexagonal, hexameter
sub-	under, below	submarine, subsoil, submerge, subterranean
super-	over	supersede, supernatural, superheat, supercilious
sym-	together, with	sympathy, symphony, symmetry, symposium
syn-	together, with	synonym, synthesis, synopsis, synchronous
tetra-	four	tetragonal, tetrameter, tetrarchy, tetrachloride
trans-	across, over	transfer, transmit, transit, transcontinental
tri-	three	triangle, tricycle, trigonometry, triad
ultra-	beyond	ultraviolet, ultramodern, ultranationalism, ultrasonic
un-	not	unsafe, unsure, unreliable, unmanned
uni-	one	unit, unicycle, unify, unique
vice-	in place of	vice-president, vice-principal, vice-admiral, viceroy

## SUFFIXES

SUFFIXE	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
-able, -ble, -ible	can be done	eatable, lovable, readable, credible
-able, -ble, -ible	inclined to	peaceable, perishable, affordable, durable
-acy, -cy	office, rank of, state of	candidacy, privacy, infancy, agency
-ade	result, product, substance made	orangeade, lemonade, limeade, marmalade
-ade	process, action	parade, blockade, escapade, promenade
-ae	Latin feminine plural	alumnae, formulae, algae, larvae
-age	place of	orphanage, parsonage, anchorage, frontage
-age	action, process	ravage, pillage, marriage, pilgrimage
-al	relating to	veteran, American, Anglican, European
-an	relating to	veteran, American, Anglican, European
-ance	state of	resistance, avoidance, importance, exuberance
-ancy	state of	vacancy, truancy, occupancy, ascendancy
-and, -end	to be done	multiplicand, addend, dividend, subtrahend
-ant	state of, condition of	defiant, radiant, vacant, buoyant
-ant, -ent	person who	immigrant, emigrant, assistant, resident
-arian	person who, place where, object which	grammarian, librarian, humanitarian, libertarian
-ary	person who, place where, object which	secretary, sanctuary, dictionary, infirmary
-ary	characterized by, relating to	literary, military, reactionary, secondary
-ate	to make, cause to be	annihilate, liberate, radiate, venerate
-ation	process, action	narration, continuation, visitation, computation
-ation	state of, quality of, result of	occupation, moderation, decoration, refrigeration
-atory	process, action place where	oratory, reformatory, laboratory, conservatory
-cule	small	minuscule, molecule, animalcule, pedicule
-dom	state of	freedom, martyrdom, wisdom, boredom
-ectomy	surgical removal	tonsillectomy, gastrectomy, appendectomy, hysterectomy
-en	to make	lengthen, shorten, weaken, strengthen
-ence	state, quality, condition of	dependence, confidence, competence, absence
-ency	quality of, state of	potency, despondency, clemency, frequency

SUFFIXE	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
-er	comparative degree	faster, lighter, clearer, tighter
-er, -or	person connected with	carpenter, barber, actor, orator
-ery, -ry	place where	bakery, rookery, bindery, laundry
-ese	derivation, language	Japanese, Maltese, Chinese, Nepalese
-esque	in the manner, style of, like	picturesque, burlesque, Romanesque, statuesque
-ess	feminine ending	actress, shepherdess, countess
-et, -ette	small	islet, dinette, kitchenette, statuette
-eur	agent	amateur, chauffeur, masseur, saboteur
-ful	enough to fill	capful, spoonful, mouthful, handful
-fy	make of, form into	satisfy, amplify, deify, qualify
-hood	state of, quality of, condition of	knighthood, manhood, falsehood, womanhood
-ial	characterized by, related to	connubial, industrial, commercial, remedial
-ian	characterized by, related to	Christian, physician, Parisian, barbarian
-ic	of the nature of, characterized by	angelic, iambic, volcanic, quixotic
-ic	to form nouns	magic, classic, public, rhetoric
-ical	of the nature of, characterized by	critical, fantastical, comical, political
-icle	little	canticle, particle, article, icicle
-ier, -yer	person who, place where	cashier, gondolier, chiffonier, lawyer
-ine	like, characterized by, pertaining to	canine, feline, asinine, feminine
-ine	feminine suffix	heroine, Caroline, Josephine, Clementine
-ing	present participle	sleeping, walking, writing, acting
-ing	material	roofing, bedding, siding, quilting
-ings	noun associated with the verb from	earnings, shavings, furnishings, filings
-ion	act, process	construction, rebellion, revolution, electrocution
-ion	state of	ambition, dominion, subjection, suspicion
-ious	characterized by	gracious, ambitious, infectious, dubious
-ise, -ize	subject to, make, carry on	exorcise, baptize, sterilize, civilize
-ish	like, pertaining to	Scottish, Turkish, clownish, whitish
-ism	action, process	baptism, plagiarism, despotism, heroism
-ism	state of, condition of	hypnotism, barbarism, racism, pacifism
-ism	doctrine, system	stoicism, Quakerism, Americanism, realism
-ist	person who	biologist, monopolist, botanist, socialist
-itis	inflammatory disease	appendicitis, bronchitis, arthritis, meningitis
-ity	state of	calamity, falsity, necessity, acidity
-less	without	witless, fruitless, doubtless, careless
-let	small	streamlet, ringlet, leaflet, bracelet
-like	like	homelike, lifelike, apelike, ghostlike
-ling	small	duckling, gosling, hireling, nestling
-logy	science of	anthropology, biology, zoology, psychology
-ly	characteristic of, in the manner of	fatherly, motherly, regally, timely
-ment	action, process	development, abridgment, government, embezzlement
-ment	state of	amazement, adornment, arrangement, refinement
-ness	state of, quality of, condition of	greatness, kindness, wilderness, dimness

SUFFIXE	MEANING	SAMPLE WORDS
-oid	like, resembling	adenoid, asteroid, spheroid, planetoid
-or	person who	auditor, donor, creditor, executor
-orium	place for, object used for	auditorium, natatorium, emporium, conservatorium
-ory	place where	laboratory, conservatory, consistory, purgatory
-osis	abnormal	hypnosis, psychosis, neurosis, otosis
	condition, state of	
-ous	possessing the	poisonous, riotous, joyous, polygamous
	qualities of	
-ry	collection of	jewelry, revelry, masonry, citizenry
-ship	state of	hardship, friendship, censorship, ownership
-ship	office, profession	clerkship, lordship, authorship, partnership
-ship	art, skill	stewardship, scholarship, penmanship, horsemanship
-ster	one belonging to,	mobster, gangster, huckster, youngster
	characterized by	
-ule	little, small	capsule, molecule, plumule, tubule
-wise	way, manner, respect	clockwise, counterclockwise, lengthwise, slantwise

# Types of vocabulary questions asked in various MBA Entrance Tests

## Synonyms and Antonyms

The most obvious fact is that your vocabulary has to be very good in order to do well in this area. For this, go through all the Wordlists provided to you very carefully. Make as many sentences as possible with these to get a strong grasp over the words.

### About Synonyms:

The directions for these kind of questions look like:

***"Each question below consists of a word printed in capitals, followed by four small lettered words or phrases. Choose the small lettered word or phrase that is most nearly similar in meaning to the word in capitals."***

Your task in answering synonym questions is straightforward : You are given a word and must choose from the options that follow it, the best synonym (word similar in meaning). Often in some tests you may get a set of 5 - 10 questions directly on synonyms.

### Take a look at a few examples

#### **TURBULENT :**

Turbulent means disorderly, stormy, boisterous, upheavals, confused, chaotic or unruly. Of the given options, let's say one of the words is Tumultuous. Tumultuous means riotous, noisy, confused etc. This is a perfect synonym of the word turbulent. Hence, this should be the most appropriate answer. The other options could be totally unrelated to the given word or could have antonymous meanings.

#### **ERRONEOUS :**

- |                |              |            |                |
|----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|
| (1) exact      | (2) truthful | (3) flawed | (4) convincing |
| <b>Ans.(3)</b> |              |            |                |

#### **TENTATIVE :**

- |                |             |               |             |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| (1) permanent  | (2) certain | (3) faltering | (4) amiable |
| <b>Ans.(3)</b> |             |               |             |

***DIRECTIONS:*** Each question below consists of a word printed in capitals, followed by four small lettered words or phrases. Choose two small lettered words or phrases that are most nearly the same in meaning to the word in capitals.

- |         |            |              |             |               |
|---------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. SHAM | (1) feign  | (2) spread   | (3) mellow  | (4) hypocrisy |
| 2. WILE | (1) during | (2) guile    | (3) entice  | (4) guilt     |
| 3. FIAT | (1) decree | (2) edict    | (3) auto    | (4) design    |
| 4. SECT | (1) crowd  | (2) belief   | (3) faction | (4) party     |
| 5. RANK | (1) bottom | (2) complete | (3) lever   | (4) flagrant  |

- |          |               |                   |                |                  |
|----------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 6. AVER  | (1) avoid (2) | attest            | (3) avow       | (4) deny         |
| 7. CANT  | (1) jargon    | (2) contradiction | (3) argot      | (4) talk         |
| 8. DOLE  | (1) senator   | (2) put           | (3) distribute | (4) parcel (out) |
| 9. MIRE  | (1) bog       | (2) mush          | (3) briar      | (4) entangle     |
| 10. TILT | (1) charge    | (2) incline       | (3) fall       | (4) admire       |

This was a typical exercise. In the actual test, usually single alternative questions are asked. The role vocabulary will play is obvious.

### About Antonyms:

The directions for these kind of questions look like:

***"Each question below consists of a word printed in capitals, followed by four small lettered words or phrases. Choose the small lettered word or phrase that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capitals."***

Your task in answering antonym questions is straightforward: You are given a word and must choose from the options that follow it, the best antonym (word opposite in meaning).

### Take a look at a few examples

#### PROTAGONIST

Protagonist means the central character, leading role or character. Of the given options, let's say one of the words is Desperado. Desperado means a villain, a scoundrel, a rogue etc. This is the direct opposite of the word Protagonist. Hence, this should be the most appropriate answer. The other options could be totally unrelated to the given word or could have synonymous meanings.

#### LAMPOON :

- |              |            |                |            |
|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| (1) ridicule | (2) parody | (3) convincing | (4) serene |
|--------------|------------|----------------|------------|

**Ans.(4)**

#### NEMESIS :

- |               |                 |          |              |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| (1) vengeance | (3) retribution | (3) fate | (4) pleasure |
|---------------|-----------------|----------|--------------|

**Ans.(4)**

***DIRECTIONS:*** Match each of the words on the left with one of those on the right that is most nearly opposite in meaning.

- |                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 11. whelp      | (a) alien               |
| 12. hirsute    | (b) judicious           |
| 13. denizen    | (c) parent              |
| 14. immutable  | (d) to antagonise       |
| 15. conciliate | (e) to purify           |
| 16. asinine    | (f) to welcome          |
| 17. duplicity  | (g) variable            |
| 18. adulterate | (h) honesty             |
| 19. exacerbate | (i) hairless            |
| 20. spurn      | (j) to mollify, appease |

Exercises given above were only indicative in nature. To develop a solid mastery over the vocabulary based questions, you'll have to go through **PT VA Atlas**. Substantial portions of the VA Atlas books will be covered in the classroom vocabulary sessions.

## Analogies

### About Analogies

The directions for these kind of questions look like :

***"In the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases in capitals is followed by four small lettered pair of words or phrases. Select the small lettered pair that best expresses a relationship **SIMILAR to that expressed in the original capitalised pair.**"***

Analogy questions ask you to determine the relationship between a pair of words and then recognise a similar or parallel relationship between a different pair of words. You are given one pair of words and must choose from the options another pair that is related in the same way. The relationship between the words in the original pair will always be specific and precise, as will the relationship between the words in the correct answer pair.

Analogies come from a wide variety of fields. You need to know that musicians study in conservatories and ministers in seminaries, that panegyrics praise and elegies lament. You need to be aware of catalyst and conundrums, augers and auguries, and know in which context these words are found. You are not, however, dealing with these words in isolation; you are always dealing with them in relationship to another words.

### Take a look at a few examples

First you have the two capitalised words linked by a symbol. Take a look at this example.

#### **FRESCO : WALL**

Explanation : Now the first exercise that we have to do when we start solving this question, is to establish a relationship between the given pair of words. By definition, a fresco or mural painting is painted on the wall. Thus, we can say that a fresco is directly related to the wall. One of the options given could be STAMMER : TALK. Now, stammer refers to an inarticulate talk. Thus, we can say STAMMER is related to TALK. The rest of the options would not be related in the same way as we have seen fresco related with wall and stammer related to talk. Thus, this option would be the best answer.

**Remember : Always express the relationship of the first pair in a sentence to be able to answer the question quickly.** The answer you seek must complement that sentence with another pair that expresses exactly the same relationship.

The order of terms in analogies must be the same on both sides of the double colon. Positioning is critical. Move any item to another position and the analogy falls apart.

#### **VEGETATE : ACTIVE**

- (1) resist : beaten                      (2) mope : gloomy                      (3) grow : small                      (4) accept : question

**Ans.(4)**

#### **SPECIES : ORGANISM**

- (1) speciality : physician                      (2) origin : idea  
(3) language : foreigner                      (4) genre : literature

**Ans.(4)**

### Common Analogous Relationships

Analogies fall into patterns or types that tend to repeat on tests. Being comfortable with some of the basic ones should prove helpful.

**1. Antonyms**

BONHOMIE : BELLCOSITY : : PASTICHE: ORIGINALITY

Bonhomie means friendliness which is opposite of bellicosity which means eagerness to fight. Similarly Pastiche which means imitation is opposite to originality. Thus we have total opposites on both sides.

**2. Synonyms**

PROCRASTINATE : STALL : : STRATEGEM : RUSE

Procrastinate means to stall or delay. Similarly strategem and ruse mean the same, a cunning plan. Both sides of the analogy balance, as both show synonyms.

**3. Degree**

ERROR : BLUNDER : : REGARD : IDOLISATION

Blunder is a bigger and important error just as idolisation is to regard or venerate excessively.

**4. Person Related to Tool, Major Trait, or Skill/Interest**

PAINTER: BRUSH : : MARINER : COMPASS

A painter uses a brush just as a mariner or seaman uses a compass.

DIPLOMAT : UNBIASED : : ARTIST : CREATIVE

A diplomat is expected to be unbiased just as an artist is expected to be creative.

**5. Person Related to Least Desirable Characteristic or to Something Lacking**

TACITURN : TALKATIVE : : MAVERICK : PREDICTABLE

Taciturn is not talkative, just as maverick is not predictable.

TRUCULENT : KINDNESS : : DIFFIDENT : BOLDNESS

A truculent (savage and pugnacious in character) person lacks kindness just as a diffident (shy and timid) person lacks boldness.

**6. One of a Kind**

GNU : ANTILOPE : : CRICKET : INSECT

A gnu is an African antelope and a cricket is an insect.

**7. Part of a whole**

TROOP: ARMY: : FORK : CUTLERY

As troop is a part of an army just as fork is a part of cutlery.

**8. End Product Related to Substance**

CHIP : SILICON :: CANDLE : WAX

A chip is made up of silicon just as a candle is made up of wax.

**9. Cause and Effect (or Typical Result)**

DOCILITY : SURRENDER : : UNREST : REBELLION

Docility or submissiveness can lead to surrender as unrest (agitation or restlessness) can result in a rebellion.

**10. Noun Related to Logical Action /Purpose**

GRAPNEL: GRASP : : SAW : CUT

Grapnel, a device with iron claws is used for grasping just as a saw is used for cutting.

MUSEUM : EXHIBITION : : RINK : SKATING

The purpose of a museum is exhibition of objects of historical and cultural importance. Similarly a rink is used for skating.



### 11. Relationships of Location/Description

BOWLING : ALLEY :: CYCLING : VELODROME

Alley is an enclosure for bowling just as a velodrome is a place with a track for cycling.

EARTH : ELLIPSOID :: DROPLETS : OVAL

The Earth's shape is described as an ellipsoid. Similarly, droplets are usually oval in shape.

### 12. Implied Relationships

THRUST : ROCKET : INQUISITIVENESS : SEEKER

Thrust propels a rocket upwards, just as inquisitiveness or curiosity drives a seeker.

MAPLE LEAF : CANADA :: KANGAROO : AUSTRALIA

Maple leaf is associated with Canada just as kangaroo is associated with Australia.

CHAUFFEUR : LIVERY :: SOLDIER : UNIFORM

A chauffeur typically wears livery (as a uniform), just as a soldier wears a uniform.

## Eight Standard Rules

**When working with analogies, remember:**

1. Analyse the given pair as precisely as possible.
2. Express this relationship in a clause or sentence.
3. Choose your own idea of a good answer – your own pair of words – before looking at the answer choices.
4. Eliminate bad answer choices one by one. Cross them out on your answer sheet (If you want to, initially).
5. Keep **Negative** vs. **Positive** concepts in mind. If one or both sides of an analogy require a negative word, for instance, you can discard any answers that show positive words in that particular slot.
6. Keep **Human** vs. **Animal** vs. **Plant** vs. **Mineral** concepts in mind. Comparing a human worker to another human worker is a better analogy than comparing human to animal.
7. Be alert to **Live** vs. **Inanimate** (nonliving) distinctions. A comparison between a human and an animal is more accurate than one between a live thing and an inanimate thing. A man uses a hammer just as an otter uses a rock, for example, is a fair analogy that compares how one living thing uses a tool to the way another living thing uses a tool.
8. Use your knowledge of prefixes and roots to help decode a strange word. Negative or positive prefixes can be especially helpful.

**DIRECTIONS:** In the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by four lettered pair of words or phrases. Select the lettered pair that best expresses a relationship *SIMILAR* to that expressed in the original pair.

#### 21. PROGRESS : REGRESS

- (1) encourage : discourage
- (3) imbibe : inhale

- (2) acquit : exonerate
- (4) extort : pressure

#### 22. SUFFICE : SATE

- (1) prate : chatter
- (3) suggest : dictate

- (2) abstain : refrain
- (4) indict : accuse

#### 23. REDUNDANT : USELESS

- (1) *caveat emptor* : trivial
- (3) extortion : intimidating

- (2) *in extremis* : early
- (4) *non sequitur* : vital

#### 24. PATRIOTIC : CHAUVINISTIC ::

- (1) impudent : intolerant
- (3) incisive : trenchant

- (2) furtive : surreptitious
- (4) receptive : gullible

25. BOUQUET : FLOWERS ::  
 (1) forest : trees (2) husk : corn (3) mist : rain (4) woodpile : logs
26. ROOTLESS : NOMADIC  
 (1) regrettable : annihilation (2) fortunate : junction  
 (3) likely : alter ego (4) conventional : orthodox
27. CRIMINAL : *PERSONA NON GRATA*  
 (1) imbibor : satiated (2) judge : impartial  
 (3) president : reticent (4) punster : pathetic
28. APPRECIATION : ENCOMIUM  
 (1) talk : prating (2) larceny : theft  
 (3) understatement : hyperbole (4) car : scooter
29. VEHICLE : PASSENGER CAR  
 (1) building : construction (2) medicine : profession  
 (3) barter : quid pro quo (4) tree : maple
30. SCOLD : BERATE  
 (1) impose : put down (2) dictate : plead  
 (3) secede : join (4) ascribe : impute

**DIRECTIONS:** In the following questions, a related pair of words or phrases is followed by four lettered pairs of words or phrases. Select the lettered pair that best expresses a relationship DISSIMILAR to that expressed in the original pair.

31. MUSKET : FIREARM  
 (1) waltz : dance (2) sonata : music (3) blues : jazz (4) cannon : camera
32. THESIS : GUIDE  
 (1) protege : mentor (2) novelist : publisher  
 (3) intern : patients (4) artist : patron
33. PILE : BOOKS  
 (1) train : wagons (2) troop : horses (3) hair : lock (4) grove : trees
34. VODOO: WITCH  
 (1) ballet : ballerina (2) recital : novelist  
 (3) painting : painter (4) surgery : surgeon
35. MIGRANT : SETTLED  
 (1) static : dynamic (2) mendicant : rich (3) berate : praise (4) gallant : brave
36. URSINE : BEAR  
 (1) leucine : lion (2) vulpine : fox (3) porcine : pig (4) lupine : wolf
37. ADONIS : MAN  
 (1) duenna : woman (2) crossword : game  
 (3) dumbhead : person (4) gazelle : frock
38. INN : TAVERN  
 (1) butte : hill (2) esemplastic : unifying  
 (3) folly : madness (4) merry: song

39. CRIMSON: RED

- (1) scarlet : red                      (2) auburn : golden                      (3) blond : yellow                      (4) rubescent : pink

40. ASTROLATRY : CELESTIAL BODIES

- (1) zoolatry : zoo                      (2) mariolatry: Virgin Mary  
(3) demonolatry :demon                      (4) idolatry : idols

## ODD-MAN-OUT

In such questions, several options are given together. These are related in some or the other way. Only one of these options has no connection with the other options of the same group. Your task is to pull out that option which is "not related" to the other members of that group.

The questions can be based on "**Vocabulary**" or "**Ideas**". In this course, you'll be exposed to a large number of questions of both the types.

### Type A. Vocabulary based questions

**DIRECTIONS:** For the following questions, choose the option which does not belong to the group (ODD-MAN-OUT).

41. (1) dull                      (2) gloomy                      (3) omnipresent                      (4) boring
42. (1) archenemy                      (2) archrival                      (3) archetype                      (4) duplicity
43. (1) dishonour                      (2) laud                      (3) brand                      (4) stigmatise
44. (1) disclaim                      (2) intimate                      (3) hint                      (4) suggest
45. (1) allegory                      (2) parody                      (3) joke                      (4) lampoon
46. (1) comedy                      (2) protagonist                      (3) tragedy                      (4) car
47. (1) flourish                      (2) burgeon                      (3) nursery                      (4) sprout
48. (1) nemesis                      (2) pretense                      (3) sham                      (4) deception
49. (1) bonus                      (2) beneficial                      (3) benevolent                      (4) bond
50. (1) entice                      (2) lure                      (3) whim                      (4) beguile
51. (1) grand                      (2) majestic                      (3) august                      (4) raunchy
52. (1) mercurial                      (2) mutable                      (3) staunch                      (4) fickle
53. (1) bucolic                      (2) choleric                      (3) bilious                      (4) cantankerous
54. (1) pelf                      (2) moolah                      (3) lucre                      (4) tantrums

55. (1) munch (2) masticate (3) crush (4) revive

**Type B. Idea based questions**

**DIRECTIONS:** For the following questions, choose the option which does not belong to the group (ODD-MAN-OUT).

56. (1) Commendations are always welcome.  
(2) A good performance deserves an applause.  
(3) Panegyrics were recited for the retiring member.  
(4) The boss fulminated against the staff.
57. (1) Philanthropic acts are too few today.  
(2) Be good to others and enjoy life.  
(3) Deception is most easily inflicted on oneself.  
(4) Magnanimity and munificence are great virtues.
58. (1) The plant water sends a nasty effluvium.  
(2) One can't stand the stench of rotting meat.  
(3) The sanatorium had a salubrious environment.  
(4) The vehicles emit pernicious smoke the whole day.
59. (1) Socialising is one major trait of his.  
(2) Gregarious people are liked by all.  
(3) A rebellious man can make you lose your sleep.  
(4) Conviviality has its distinct advantages.
60. (1) Extramarital sex can be disastrous.  
(2) Win someone's trust and then don't break.  
(3) Infidelity is not necessarily a temporary phenomenon.  
(4) Adultery is punishable by law.
61. (1) Each man is a hero and an oracle to somebody.  
(2) No one is mediocre who has good sense and good sentiments.  
(3) The will to do, the soul to dare.  
(4) True valour lies in the middle, between cowardice and rashness.
62. (1) The Giraffe is a majestic animal.  
(2) Asia is fast throwing off its third world mould.  
(3) The Bermuda Triangle is still an unresolved enigma.  
(4) Pacific Ocean is a vast blue expanse.
63. (1) Mirage occurs in the desert air. (2) P. Bhatt squints a little.  
(3) Ash has blue eyes. (4) I have myopic vision.
64. (1) The drums blared the message to neighbouring villages.  
(2) The courier carted the package to its destination.  
(3) The pigeon brought in a letter tied to its feet.  
(4) A bottle with a message was found off the coast of the port town.
65. (1) Say the grace before you eat.  
(2) Congratulations on your brilliant success.  
(3) Best wishes for the New Year!  
(4) May God Bless the newly weds.

## Miscellaneous Questions

Any type that we have not covered so far will be called "Miscellaneous Type." As you can understand, there can be a wide variety that can be asked here. Like "Idioms & Phrases", "Vocabulary based typical questions", "Clear and Concise Usage", "Replacement of underlined portions", etc.

### Most Inappropriate Usage

The directions for this type of questions look like :

**"For each of the words below, a contextual usage is provided. Pick the word from the alternatives that is most inappropriate in the given context."**

**DIRECTIONS:** For each of the words below, a contextual usage is provided. Pick the word from the alternatives that is most inappropriate in the given context.

66. COMPASSIONATE : His aloofness seldom allowed his compassionate side to surface.  
(1) humane (2) sensitive (3) caring (4) altruistic
67. SARDONIC : His words often had a bitter, sardonic edge to them; and it kept him away from the rest of the company.  
(1) sarcastic (2) encomiastic (3) sneering (4) satiric
68. FLAMBOYANT : His cloths were rather flamboyant for such a serious occasion.  
(1) ostentatious (2) gaudy (3) anfractuous (4) extravagant
69. VIRTUOSO : The dance critics described her dancing as a virtuoso performance of a dazzling accomplishment.  
(1) dabbler (2) consummate (3) maestro (4) connoisseur
70. SCURRILOUS : As elections are close, most of the politicians resort to scurrilous remarks about their opponents.  
(1) obscene (2) coarse (3) blasphemous (4) hobo
71. TEMERARIOUS : The candidate was found unsuitable for the company by the interviewers on the ground that he was extremely temerarious.  
(1) rash (2) audacious (3) circumspect (4) reckless
72. POLYGLOT : Bombay is an exciting polyglot city where you can find almost anything from almost anywhere in the world.  
(1) multilingual (2) linguist (3) phenologist (4) philologist
73. LIBERTINE : His wife finding him to be a libertine decided to live all alone.  
(1) profligate (2) rake (3) lewd (4) abettor
74. DEPREDATION : The entire nation has suffered the depredations of war which went on for ten years.  
(1) pillage (2) encroach (3) gargantuan (4) rapine
75. UMBRAGE : She can take umbrage even on a small issue, and it kept her husband on toes.  
(1) subterfuge (2) chagrin (3) indignation (4) ire
76. ACRIMONIOUS : It took fifteen months of acrimonious negotiations to achieve the peace treaty.  
(1) mellifluous (2) arrogant (3) acrid (4) caustic

### Questions on Dictionary Definitions and Corresponding Usage

Introduced for the first time in CAT 2001, this was a twist on the original theme of asking direct vocabulary questions. Now, the examiner is interested in checking the candidate's grip on varied colours of the language.

The directions for this type of questions look like :

**"For the word given on the top of each table, match the dictionary definition on the left (A, B, C, D) with their**

**corresponding usage on the right (E, F, G, H). Out of the four options given in the boxes below the table, select the one that has all the definitions and their usage correctly matched."**

**DIRECTIONS:** For the word given on the top of each table, match the dictionary definition on the left (A, B, C, D) with their corresponding usage on the right (E, F, G, H). Out of the four options given in the boxes below the table, select the one that has all the definitions and their usage correctly matched.

**77. TABLE**

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	a group seated at a table for a meal.	E	The children are learning their tables
B	a meeting place for formal discussions held to settle an issue or dispute	F	He boasts of the finest French table in the North.
C	food provided in a restaurant or household	G	The whole table was in a state of shock after the remark.
D	multiplication tables	H	That can be taken care of once we reach the negotiating table

1	
A	F
B	G
C	H
D	E

2	
A	H
B	F
C	G
D	E

3	
A	F
B	H
C	E
D	G

4	
A	G
B	H
C	F
D	E

**78. MOON**

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	Anything that are could desire	E	He promised her the moon all this while.
B	Behave or move in a listless manner	F	She knows that he'd give her the moon.
C	Something desirable but unattainable.	G	He has been mooning since the fiasco.
D	A month	H	We met many moons ago.

1	
A	F
B	G
C	E
D	H

2	
A	E
B	G
C	F
D	H

3	
A	G
B	E
C	F
D	H

4	
A	G
B	F
C	E
D	H

**79. FRAME**

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	An established order, plan or system	E	They framed a series of new characters for the new production.
B	Draft, devise	F	Most of are actions are within the frame of the society.
C	Fabricate	G	The professional training is framed to enhance presentation skills.
D	To fit or adjust esp. to something or for an end.	H	The legislations framed do not support fast-paced development.

1	
A	H
B	F
C	G
D	E

2	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

3	
A	F
B	E
C	H
D	G

4	
A	F
B	H
C	E
D	G

# 80. CONSECRATE

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	devote somebody or some thing to a special (esp. religious) purpose.	E	The new church was consecrated by the Bishop of Chester.
B	bring (sth) into religious use or (sb) into religious office by a special ceremony.	F	He was a gang leader who consecrated his fortune to charity.
C	to render inviolate or venerable.	G	One must consecrate his life to the service of God, to the relief of suffering.
D	to deliver up with deep solemnity, dedication or devotion	H	Prime Minister consecrated a document by the presence of the national emblem.

1	
A	E
B	G
C	H
D	F

2	
A	G
B	H
C	E
D	F

3	
A	F
B	E
C	H
D	G

4	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

# 81. PURGE

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	to clear from a charge or doubt	E	Let us purge our sins with prayer.
B	to remove by the process of cleansing	F	They purge the barley from the bran.
C	An act of purging someone or something esp. from an organisation or party.	G	The committee heard his attempt to purge himself of a charge of heresy.
D	Make physically pure or clean by the removal of dirt or waste.	H	Almost all higher officials owe their positions to purges that removed their predecessors.

1	
A	G
B	F
C	H
D	E

2	
A	H
B	E
C	G
D	F

3	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

4	
A	H
B	F
C	G
D	E

# 82. INCITE

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	to move to a course of action	E	Such behaviour is likely to incite retaliation
B	induce to exist or occur	F	That teacher always incited us towards developing better communication skills.
C	to encourage, nurture an activity.	G	Gandhiji incited the people to rebel against Britishers.
D	encouraging others to initiate often questionable actions initiated with dubious intention.	H	The general, incited by the excited aide-de-camp, made a fatal error.

1	
A	F
B	E
C	G
D	H

2	
A	G
B	E
C	F
D	H

3	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

4	
A	H
B	E
C	G
D	F

### 83. ABOUT

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	On the subject of	E	He never complained about his wife.
B	Relating to	F	The toys are lying about the house.
C	Surrounding	G	Leadership is about the ability to implement change.
D	At points throughout	H	She was elegantly dressed with a double strand of pearls about her neck.

1	
A	G
B	F
C	H
D	E

2	
A	E
B	F
C	H
D	G

3	
A	E
B	H
C	G
D	F

4	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

### 84. ABOVE

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	Over	E	Look at the people above you in the position of power and see what type of characters they are.
B	More than	F	What he says is above my understanding.
C	Higher in grade or rank than	G	He lifted his hand above his head.
D	Beyond the reach of	H	The temperature crept up to just above 40 degrees.

1	
A	G
B	H
C	E
D	F

2	
A	G
B	E
C	H
D	F

3	
A	E
B	H
C	F
D	G

4	
A	H
B	G
C	E
D	F

### 85. ABSOLUTE



	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	Complete	E	Hitler ruled Germany with absolute power.
B	Unconditional	F	Certain assumptions are accepted without question as absolute truths.
C	Despotic	G	It's not really suited to absolute beginners.
D	Universally valid	H	They had given an absolute assurance that it would be kept secret.

1	
A	G
B	H
C	F
D	E

2	
A	G
B	H
C	E
D	F

3	
A	H
B	G
C	E
D	F

4	
A	G
B	E
C	F
D	H

#### 86. **ABSORB**

	Dictionary Definition		Usage
A	Incorporate	E	His debts absorbed half his income.
B	Suck up	F	The country successfully absorbed its immigrants.
C	Reduce the intensity	G	Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the air and moisture from the soil.
D	Consume	H	A footwear is of no use if it does not absorb the impact of the foot striking the ground.

1	
A	F
B	G
C	H
D	E

2	
A	E
B	G
C	H
D	F

3	
A	F
B	E
C	H
D	G

4	
A	F
B	E
C	G
D	H

#### 87. **THRIFTY**

	Dictionary definitions		Usages
A	Prosperous	E	Concha was very thrifty and thought twice before purchasing anything.
B	Respectable	F	While choosing tomato seedlings, pick those that are young and thrifty.
C	Flourishing	G	This is a thrifty modern-looking town.
D	Sparing	H	The thrifty commissioner was applauded for his achievements.

1	
A	G
B	F
C	H
D	E

2	
A	E
B	G
C	F
D	H

3	
A	G
B	H
C	F
D	E

4	
A	H
B	F
C	E
D	G

#### 88. **TRESPASS**

Dictionary definitions			Usages
A	A transgression	E	Trespassers will be prosecuted
B	An encroachment	F	We should forgive those who trespass us.
C	To violate	G	I know the extent of this trespass on your tranquility.
D	To offend	H	His errors of taste, when he trespasses, never consist in taking a subject too seriously or too lightly.

1	
A	H
B	F
C	E
D	G

2	
A	E
B	F
C	G
D	H

3	
A	F
B	G
C	E
D	H

4	
A	H
B	G
C	E
D	F

#### 89. TOLL

Dictionary definitions			Usages
A	Charge	E	The toll of cigarettes on health is terrible.
B	Count	F	The toll of the church bell reverberated in the locality.
C	Adverse effects	G	We will pay entry toll as soon as we enter the state.
D	Sound	H	The cyclone resulted in huge death toll.

1	
A	E
B	F
C	G
D	H

2	
A	G
B	H
C	E
D	F

3	
A	E
B	H
C	G
D	F

4	
A	G
B	F
C	E
D	H

#### 90. TENUOUS

Dictionary definitions			Usages
A	Thin	E	The tenuous legs of a Sheraton chair are elegant.
B	Slender	F	The tenuous build of the jockey relaxed the stallion.
C	Slight	G	Being under prepared, he has tenuous chance of success.
D	Slim	H	The soup was tenuous and tasteless.

1	
A	H
B	E
C	G
D	F

2	
A	E
B	H
C	F
D	G

3	
A	H
B	G
C	E
D	F

4	
A	F
B	H
C	G
D	E

## Objective key

1. (1), (4)	2. (2), (3)	3. (1), (2)	4. (3), (4)	5. (2), (4)
6. (2), (3)	7. (1), (3)	8. (3), (4)	9. (1), (4)	10. (1), (2)
11. (c)	12. (i)	13. (a)	14. (g)	15. (d)
16. (b)	17. (h)	18. (e)	19. (j)	20. (f)
21. (1)	22. (3)	23. (3)	24. (4)	25. (4)
26. (4)	27. (2)	28. (1)	29. (4)	30. (4)
31. (4)	32. (3)	33. (3)	34. (2)	35. (4)
36. (1)	37. (4)	38. (4)	39. (4)	40. (1)
41. (3)	42. (4)	43. (2)	44. (1)	45. (1)
46. (4)	47. (3)	48. (1)	49. (4)	50. (3)
51. (4)	52. (3)	53. (1)	54. (4)	55. (4)
56. (4)	57. (3)	58. (3)	59. (3)	60. (2)
61. (4)	62. (3)	63. (3)	64. (2)	65. (1)
66. (4)	67. (2)	68. (3)	69. (1)	70. (4)
71. (3)	72. (3)	73. (4)	74. (3)	75. (1)
76. (1)	77. (4)	78. (1)	79. (4)	80. (4)
81. (3)	82. (2)	83. (4)	84. (1)	85. (2)
86. (3)	87. (3)	88. (4)	89. (2)	90. (1)